

THE JERUSALEM POST

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Tax stymies banks, airlines and agents

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT and MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporters

Travel agents, banks, airline officials and passengers all faced problems yesterday as they dealt with the new 15 per cent surcharge on foreign currency and services purchased by Israelis going abroad.

Eli Blau of the Travel Agents Association yesterday took the agents' case to Finance Ministry Customs and VAT director Mordechai Bareket, who acknowledged some difficulties and promised to work on solutions today. Knesset Finance Committee Chairman Shlomo

Lojinez promised to discuss the matter with Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad and Bank of Israel Governor Moshe Mandelbaum in a meeting of the committee.

The new regulation sets a 15 per cent tax on foreign currency bought for travel abroad and on services to be provided abroad, such as hotels and car rentals. The regulation requires passengers to prove they paid the tax on foreign currency in a bank. But it requires the travel agents to collect and transfer the tax levied on services abroad.

Travel agents told *The Jerusalem Post* (Continued on Page 13)

2 Katyushas fired at Beit Shean Valley

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TIBERIAS. — Two Katyusha rockets were fired early yesterday morning from Jordanian territory and fell in the Beit Shean Valley causing no injuries or damage.

A member of Kibbutz Neve Eitan said that he saw two trails and then heard two explosions.

Israeli forces found the remains of a 107mm. rocket and were searching yesterday for the second.

On July 3, 1983, there was a similar rocket attack from Jordan.

Israel Defence Forces sources said yesterday that terrorists in both incidents had sneaked into Jordan from Syria and fired the rockets in spite of efforts by the Jordanian army to prevent such infiltration.

There is no tendency to blame the Jordanian authorities for the attack. The Israel Defence Forces is aware of the Jordan Army's patrols, which attempt to prevent incursions and attacks. Military sources said they believe the Jordanian Army is doing a lot to prevent terrorist activity against Israel.

4 Jaffa Arabs accused of sabotage

TEL AVIV. — Four Jaffa residents have been charged in the Lod Military Court with carrying out acts of sabotage in Jaffa and the surrounding area. They are Hamud Kulab, 23, Adel Sikak, 21, Ahmed Safouri, 24, and Nimr Kmdus, 26, who have been detained until the end of their trial.

The four were arrested several weeks ago, but the details of their arrest and trial were released for the first time on Gali Zuhari's 8 a.m. newscast yesterday.

The four are accused of being involved in the throwing of a grenade at an Israel Defence Forces base in Rehov Yehuda Hayamim on

April 15 and the throwing of a grenade at the home of the head of the Jaffa Moslem Committee on January 18.

Three soldiers were arrested for the IDF camp incident, suspected of trying to settle scores with their commanding officer. But the security services later uncovered the suspected gang. It is thought the four planned other actions in the Tel Aviv area.

Kmdus was said to be found in possession of a pistol and two of the others are charged with the possession of grenades. All the military equipment was of IDF issue.

3 pedestrians, 1 driver killed on roads

Four persons, three of them pedestrians, were killed in separate road accidents around the country yesterday.

Three-year-old Yasmin al-Nagar of Rafah was run over and killed by a car as she was crossing the road. The driver of the car was a 33-year-old resident of a nearby refugee camp.

In Kiryat Shaul, a 71-year-old woman was killed when struck by a car on the Herzliya highway. The driver, a 32-year-old man from Netanya, was arrested.

Fifteen-year-old Michael Ben-Hamo of Ashdod was struck and killed by a car on the coastal road.

The driver was arrested. Near Beersheba, a driver was killed when he tried to pass another car on the Ofakim road and his car overturned.

Four persons were seriously hurt yesterday when two cars collided at the Nir Am junction in the South. Isidore Ben Zaken, 46, the driver of one car, and his wife, Nili, 42, from Beersheba, who was riding with him, were both critically injured.

Also injured were the driver and passenger of the second car, Yosef Mamrod, 75, and his son Eli, 40, from Gan Yavne. (Itim)

Israeli textile factory opened in Ciskei

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters). — The President of the South African tribal homeland of Ciskei yesterday opened the first of six Israeli factories due to be set up there, and said Israeli investors had been subjected to "unfair criticism."

In a speech released through the South African Press Association, Chief Lennox Sebe praised the 150-man Ciskatex textile factory. (Ciskatex is reportedly being financed by the Israel Discount Bank.)

"This factory stands on Ciskeian soil and it belongs to Israelis who have faith in the capability of Ciskei to honour its promises, and it demonstrates the willingness of our friends from Israel to invest permanently in Ciskei," he said.

Israel has not formally recognized the tribal homelands founded by South Africa. But it has close political ties with the Pretoria government and economic links with some of the homelands, including Ciskei.



Labour's Yitzhak Navon holds coalition talks with Shas leader Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz (left) and former Sephardi chief rabbi Ovadia Yosef yesterday in Yosef's office in Jerusalem. (Isaac Harari)

Banks raise interest to high of 1,760%

By PINHAS LANDAU
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The "big three" commercial banks — Leumi, Hapoalim and Discount — yesterday announced an impending rise in interest rates by 1½-2 per cent monthly on loans, overdrafts and deposits. Annually, the rates run as high as 1,760 per cent.

The move followed a similar rate hike by the United Mizrahi Bank, the fourth largest bank, on Wednesday. The banks explained the increase as being the inevitable result of their continuing liquidity deficits, which are estimated at IS25-IS30 billion — after full utilization of a IS40b. loan from the Bank of Israel.

The liquidity deficits are caused by the lack of shekel deposits in the banking system. This shekel shortage is, in turn, a reflection of the general unwillingness to hold funds in local currency and the preference to turn shekel balances into dollars. The flight from the shekel has been getting steadily worse for several

weeks, and the banks have been forced to raise the rate of interest they pay to depositors in an attempt to persuade them to hold onto their shekels.

The new rates are based on a 2 per cent increase in the prime rate that the banks charge to their best corporate customers, from 16.5 to 18.5 per cent monthly. Authorized overdraft rates will now vary from 18.5 to 21 per cent, in line with the quality of the customer. These monthly rates translate into effective annual rates of 687 to 914 per cent.

The charge on unauthorized overdrafts, or excesses beyond the permitted levels, will now be 6.5 per cent above the basic rate, or 25-27.5 per cent. Annualized, these figures come to 1,455-1,760 per cent. The banks state openly that these rates are punishingly high and are meant to discourage clients from exceeding the loan facilities given them, with the resulting liquidity deficits, which

(Continued on Page 13)

U.S. says Israeli economy is worse than it had thought

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — The State Department has concluded that Israel's economic situation is considerably worse than earlier believed.

In the immediate aftermath of the Israeli elections, several senior officials have privately suggested that Israel is going to have to get its economic health in some semblance of order before a possible total collapse.

Consequently, there has been increased recognition among the Americans that a national unity government in Jerusalem designed to focus on painful economic measures aimed at a recovery might be the best course for Israel right now.

U.S. officials would have preferred a strongly based Labour-led coalition government, which might have simultaneously addressed the economic issues and a peace dialogue with Jordan. But since the election results appear to indicate that a Labour-led coalition would be weak and fragile, the Americans appear to be increasingly resigned to the prospect of a wall-to-wall Labour-Likud coalition.

Underlining the deep concern in Washington of the worsening economic plight in Israel, the State Department's senior Middle East specialist on Wednesday drew a very gloomy picture for members of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on

(Continued on Page 13)

Retired man wins \$20m. in N.Y. lottery

NEW YORK (AP). — Telling officials he "didn't believe it," a 63-year-old retired carpenter yesterday claimed a record \$20 million in New York's Lotto game, described by state officials as the largest individual lottery prize in history.

Venero Pagano, who was flanked at a news conference by his wife, two sons and a four-year-old granddaughter, will collect about \$952,000 a year for 21 years, minus taxes, said John Quinn, the state lottery director.

"I never really thought I would win," said Pagano, who was born in New York but raised in Sicily and lived there until age 24. "My wife had just gone to sleep," he said. "I woke her up and said, 'I think we are millionaires.'"

Pagano said he has no immediate plans for his winnings. "I got whatever I need. I got my house, I got my tomatoes," he said. "I continue to grow my tomatoes in the yard."

Disgruntled Sephardim put Kahane in Knesset

By HANOCHE and RAFT SMITH
Kach leader Meir Kahane, whose election to the Knesset was one of the most important developments in the elections, scored well among

voters of Islamic-country origin and poorly among those originating in Europe.

His success constitutes another chapter in the Sephardi voter rebellion that started in the 1977 elections and continued this week when those Sephardi Jews who were dissatisfied with the Likud's performance switched, not to Alignment, but to anti-Alignment parties such as Kach and Tehiya.

Contrary to what was believed at first, Kahane's vote was well above the minimum of one per cent needed to enter the Knesset. Near-final results give him 1.3 per cent of the vote, about the same percentage as obtained by Shinui or the Citizens' Rights Movement in 1981.

To understand where Kahane's

substantial vote came from, it is useful to compare it by type of settlement with the vote for Lova Eliav, whose philosophy towards Arabs is the opposite of Kahane's and who got 0.7 per cent of the vote.

Type of settlement	Vote for Kahane (%)	Vote for Eliav (%)
Small Dev. Towns	3.3	0.2
Religious moshavim	3.2	0.3
Jerusalem poor areas	2.7	0.7
Trust Moshavim		
- Asia/African origin	2.6	0.6
- Large Dev. Towns	1.9	0.4
- Western Cities, European	0.9	0.7
- T.A., northern moshavim	0.5	1.7
- Israel, Carmel, Ashdod	0.4	1.3
- Veterans		
- Moshavim, European	0.3	1.3
- Kibbutzim	Less than 0.1	2.6

The data show that in small development towns like Beit She'an, Ofakim, Beit Shemesh, Dimona and the like Kahane gained 33 per cent of the total vote. He got almost as much

in religious moshavim (overwhelmingly of Asia/African origins).

In the poorer areas of Jerusalem (Katamonim, Nahlat), Kahane drew 27 per cent and again almost as much in the Asia/African origin moshavim of the moshavim movement.

In large development towns like Beersheba, Ashdod and Ashkelon almost 2 per cent voted Kahane.

In contrast, in veteran cities with European-origin majorities, Kahane did not clear the 1 per cent barrier. In the richer areas of Tel Aviv and Haifa, he did not even clear 0.5 per cent of the vote. In veteran moshavim and kibbutzim his vote was negligible.

The development towns and poor areas of cities are overwhelmingly populated by Jews from Islamic countries. The election data give the

(Continued on Page 3)

Peres gov't may hinge on Weizman being FM

By MARK SEGAL
Post Political Correspondent

TEL AVIV. — Ezer Weizman has given the Labour Party 48 hours to decide to give him the Foreign Ministry, promised to former president Yitzhak Navon, as the condition for his joining a Labour coalition. This was the outcome of a late-night meeting between Weizman and Labour leader Shimon Peres at the home of a common friend in Kfar Shmaryahu, following confirmation of Yahad's third Knesset seat after the soldiers' vote. (See story below.)

Officially, Yahad insisted to *The Jerusalem Post* last night that they wanted "a national unity government led by the largest faction." They stressed that they were not committed either way.

Labour Party sources confirmed last night that this was the position. Weizman's position has become pivotal, the more so in view of the fact that he has effectively formed a

four-member block with Aharon Abuhatzira. Although Weizman expressed an interest in financial affairs during the campaign, his friends have been urging him to return to his participation in the peace process, in which he was closely involved as defence minister under former prime minister Menachem Begin.

It is understood that there is considerable pressure from the Navon camp in the Labour Party to retain the foreign affairs portfolio for the former president. Labour insiders predicted that the positions of Weizman and Navon should be known "within 24 hours."

Weizman is due to meet Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir today. Shamir certainly has the Foreign Ministry to offer Weizman; but Weizman is said to be unhappy about the Likud's attitude to the Camp David peace process, of which he was one of the architects. The Alignment's attitude to Camp David is said to be

far closer to Weizman's. Weizman met on Wednesday with Deputy Prime Minister David Levy and yesterday had a two-hour meeting with Minister without Portfolio Ariel Sharon. The meeting was said to have been arranged by Avraham Tamir, Yahad's secretary-general, who served both men as national security adviser when they were defence minister.

It is understood that both Levy and Sharon made it clear that they want Weizman to "come home" to his party, with which he broke in 1980. They made it clear to him that he would be welcomed back to a position in the party's inner circle.

It will be recalled that Sharon found his way to the top table in Herut after running his own Shlomzion list in the 1977 elections. He then merged with Herut and, as part of the merger deal, he was awarded 10 per cent for his party members in all Herut bodies.

ELECTION RESULTS

Jerusalem Post Staff

The final unofficial election results, including the Israel Defence Forces and merchant marine votes, were circulated in the Knesset last night. The Central Elections Committee will publish official figures next Tuesday.

These are the figures:

Faction	Knesset seats	Percentage of votes
Alignment	44	34.9
Likud	41	31.9
Tehiya	5	4.0
D.F.P.E.	4	3.4
N.R.P.	4	3.5
Shas	4	3.1
Yahad	3	2.2
Shinui	3	2.6
C.R.M.	3	2.4
Aguda	2	1.7
Morasha	2	1.6
P.L.P.	2	1.8
Tami	1	1.5
Ometz	1	1.2
Kach	1	1.2

Soldiers' votes give Tehiya extra seat

Compiled from reports by Asher Wallfish, Roy Isaacowitz, Sarah Honig and Aryeh Rubinstein

Neither the Alignment nor the Likud was much closer last night to forming a coalition after the inclusion of the soldiers' votes, but the Likud's position improved slightly.

The soldiers' votes gave Tehiya a fifth seat and reduced the Alignment's seats by one, to 44. The Knesset seats of all the other lists that crossed the 1 per cent qualifying threshold remained the same (see table below).

Both the Likud and the Alignment were working very hard to win Ezer Weizman, an attempt to climax for the Likud today at a meeting between Weizman and Prime Minister Shamir.

The Alignment would now need Tami, as well as Yahad, to put together a "spoiling bloc" that would make a Likud-led coalition impossible.

The Alignment, together with Shinui and the Citizens Rights Movement, needs another four seats in a coalition, along with six passive sup-

porting seats from Rakah and the Progressives, to form 60, half the 120-member Knesset. The four could come from Yahad and Tami or Yahad and Ometz.

The Likud's 41, plus the five committed votes from Tehiya, would depend on 12 votes from the four religious parties to make 58. With Tami in this alliance and Kach giving passive support outside it, Shamir would have a "spoiling bloc" of 60. The inclusion of Ometz could transform this bloc into a coalition, while the inclusion of Yahad would make everything plain sailing for Shamir.

In preliminary negotiating contacts yesterday, Sharon met for 20 minutes with Yosef and for two hours with Weizman. Deputy Pre-

(Continued on Page 13)



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The Jerusalem Post
Election Night Happening

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Ticket holders please contact The Post
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Straw poll result Maarach 184, Likud 123, Ratz 64,
Shinui 58, Morasha 48, Kach 44, Mafdal 37, Tehiya 20,
Ometz 14, Yahad 12, Shas 8, Agudat Yisrael 8,
Lova Eliav 6, Progressive List 3, Tami 2.

The weather at major Swissair destinations

	26.7.84	MIN.	MAX.
AMSTERDAM	12	54	19
BRUSSELS	12	54	19
BUSINESS AIR	12	54	19
CHICAGO	15	64	75
COPENHAGEN	14	57	70
FRANKFURT	13	56	70
GENEVA	15	59	71
HELSINKI	13	55	67
HONG KONG	28	82	90
JORDAN	7	48	14
LONDON	17	62	81
LYON	14	57	72
MADRID	13	55	70
MONTREAL	12	54	72
NEW YORK	19	62	81
OSLO	14	57	70
PARIS	12	54	72
SAO PAULO	13	55	70
STOCKHOLM	12	54	72
TOKYO	26	79	89
TORONTO	13	55	70
VIENNA	14	57	70
ZURICH	15	59	71

*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

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THE WEATHER

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
	Humidity	Min-Max	Max
Jerusalem	32	18-30	34
Golan	42	16-30	30
Nahariya	49	16-30	30
Safed	66	21-29	32
Haifa Port	69	21-35	36
Tiberias	63	18-31	31
Nazareth	59	22-32	32
Afula	59	22-32	32
Sharon	50	19-31	31
Tel Aviv	67	18-30	30
B-G Airport	58	20-31	32
Jericho	35	23-39	39
Gaza	70	21-28	28
Beersheva	43	18-34	34
Eilat	12	26-41	41

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Venezuelan Ambassador Helodoro Claverie yesterday bestowed the order of Don Andres Bello jointly on Yitzhak and Ofra Navon at his Herzliya residence.

Misgav Ladach Hospital Director Reuven Kashiari has been elected chairman of the council of Sephardi and Oriental Communities in Jerusalem. Former chairman David Sitton was re-elected president.

An assembly commemorating the 80th anniversary of the death of Theodor Herzl was held yesterday in the Herzliya Yad Labanim, opened by Zionist Council in Israel secretary Yehuda Azrieli and with greetings from Mayor Eli Landau.

BIRTH

YEHIEL - To Joanna and Raoul, a daughter, sister to Nuphar and Adam Hadassah, Ein Kerem, July 26, 1984.

DEPARTURES

Prof. Nahum Rakover, Deputy Attorney-General, for Oxford, England, to take part in an international conference on current research in Jewish law.

Edgar Brodman, president of the World Jewish Congress, today, for a visit of several days.

TRAFFIC - The new traffic light at the Accadia junction in Herzliya will begin working today at noon.



Joel Finkle receives special issue of the Bible from Rabbi Shear Yashuv Cohen, president of Ariel United Israel Institutes as Rabbi Simon A. Dolgin (l) looks on. Finkle is a founding patron of the Midrasa, Jerusalem Seminary at Ariel.

Ariel Institutes Honour Patrons

Ariel United Israel Institutes received Mr. and Mrs. Joel Finkle of New York at a tribute reception yesterday. Other guests attending the event were Rabbi and Mrs. Nissim Shulman and Rabbi Alvin Poplack, also of New York. The event was arranged in the office of Chief Rabbi Shear Yashuv Cohen, president of Ariel.

Appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Finkle who have been founding sponsors of the Midrasa, Jerusalem Seminary, division of Ariel, was expressed by Rabbi Cohen; Rabbi Simon A. Dolgin, Chairman of Ariel Board of Directors and Rabbi Shulman. Mr. Finkle responded on the need for competent Jewish spiritual leadership as he and Mrs. Finkle received a leather bound set of the Bible.

Ariel United Israel Institutes is one of the centers of higher Tora studies and research. It incorporates the Harry Fischel Institute for Rabbinic Judges, the Midrasa Gevoha L' Torah (The Jerusalem Seminary) for Rabbinic Ordination, the Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein Central Torah Library and Research Center, the Nezer David Institute of Jewish Philosophy, as well as publication and community service endeavours.

(Communicated)

HOME AND WORLD NEWS

All you didn't want to know about the new tax

By PINHAS LANDAU
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Announcement of the 15-per-cent levy on tourist services bought in Israel for trips overseas and on the \$2,000 travel allowance has caused some confusion among the public. The following is an attempt to answer the questions that have been asked most frequently:

What is the new tax?

The new tax is a 15 per cent levy on the import of services, such as tourism, which are paid for by sending foreign currency abroad. This includes the purchase of foreign currency for the purpose of travelling abroad.

What about imports of goods?

These are already subject to an import duty, in the form of a deposit of 15 per cent of the purchase price, which is returned in unlinked shekels after one year.

How is the tax collected?

An Israeli citizen who buys up to \$2,000 in the bank for his travel allowance, has the amount (up to \$500 in cash and \$1,500 in travellers' cheques) written in his passport and flight ticket. He must now pay a 15 per cent levy on this amount at a bank and receive an official receipt, which he must show before he leaves the country. If he does not have this receipt, his departure can be delayed.

Does the tax apply to Patah (tourists' and new settlers' foreign-currency)

will the importer be permitted to transfer the payment in foreign currency.

Since no foreign automobile manufacturer is likely to give an individual credit for 2½ years, personal import of automobiles is virtually impossible under the new regulation. The Bank of Israel told importers on Wednesday that anyone importing certain goods, including vehicles, will be required to receive credit from the supplier for two and a half years. Only at the end of this period

will the importer be permitted to transfer the payment in foreign currency. Since no foreign automobile manufacturer is likely to give an individual credit for 2½ years, personal import of automobiles is virtually impossible under the new regulation. The Bank of Israel told importers on Wednesday that anyone importing certain goods, including vehicles, will be required to receive credit from the supplier for two and a half years. Only at the end of this period

New regulations block personal car imports

Jerusalem Post Staff

New Bank of Israel regulations have effectively made personal import of automobiles impossible, and will raise the price vehicles from commercial importers.

The Bank of Israel told importers on Wednesday that anyone importing certain goods, including vehicles, will be required to receive credit from the supplier for two and a half years. Only at the end of this period

will the importer be permitted to transfer the payment in foreign currency. Since no foreign automobile manufacturer is likely to give an individual credit for 2½ years, personal import of automobiles is virtually impossible under the new regulation. The Bank of Israel told importers on Wednesday that anyone importing certain goods, including vehicles, will be required to receive credit from the supplier for two and a half years. Only at the end of this period

Injured soldier's father ends hunger strike at ministry

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Officials of the Defence Ministry rehabilitation department yesterday persuaded Dr. Avraham DeLange, father of a permanently disabled soldier, to end his hunger strike outside the building in Tel Aviv after 24 hours.

DeLange, a Jerusalem veterinarian, began his strike on Wednesday when clerks at the rehabilitation department refused to see him regarding payments due for the care of his son Aharon, 23, who was wounded a year ago in Lebanon and who is paralyzed from the neck down.

DeLange says that the ministry has consistently left the family to take responsibility for providing for the needs of his son, who requires 24-hours-a-day attention. He also says that payments made by the family for life-support care and vital services are refunded after weeks, unlinked and often in the form of

Kollek calls for law banning racist talk

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek has called for legislation outlawing the espousal of racism, joining a chorus of angry opposition to Meir Kahane, the newly elected Knesset member of the Kach movement.

"Probably more than any other Jewish politician in Israel, Kollek has had to deal with the problem of Kahane's racism," said a source close to the mayor.

He was referring to dozens of sometimes violent demonstrations by Kahane supporters, incidents of increased tension between Arabs and Jews resulting from Kahane's provocations and other incidents in which Kahane was involved over the past dozen years since he came from the U.S. to live in the capital.

The Israeli delegates to the 20th anniversary meeting of the board of trustees for the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture yesterday condemned the election of Meir Kahane.

The delegates "reject with abhorrence the expressions of racism and the violent outbursts of the evil counterculture by the marginal fringe Kach group, which have besmirched our city and which are in direct violation of the very essence of the culture of our people."

The statement also accused Kach of "desecrating the teachings of the Jewish Torah and the traditions of our faith and civilization."

The statement was read by Professor Ephraim Urbach, president of the Israel Academy of Sciences, at the closing session of the conference yesterday at Yad Vashem.

Several dozen members of the religious peace movements Netivot Shalom and Oz Veshalom marched through the Old City of Jerusalem yesterday from the Jaffa Gate to the Western Wall, distributing "a message of brotherhood and peace to the Arabs of Jerusalem" in protest against Rabbi Meir Kahane's "victory march" on the same route Wednesday.

They distributed a letter to Arab merchants along the way saying: "Meir Kahane does not represent the majority of the Jewish people nor does he represent our Torah and the Jewish religion... We call on you to work together with us to achieve a just peace between our peoples... for we are all created in the image of the One-God."

An organizer of the demonstration told The Jerusalem Post last night that the merchants reacted "very favourably" to the letter, saying they were "extremely happy" to hear Jews dissociate themselves from Kahane.

Vandals devastate Na'amat centre

BE'ER YA'ACOV (Itim). - Vandals broke into the Na'amat day-care centre here on Wednesday night and left it looking "as if a bomb hit it," according to a Na'amat official.

The word "Likud" was scrawled in paint on the walls. TV screens, windows and floors. Cupboards were overturned. Tables and walls were smeared with excrement. The Na'amat official, Sarah Polachek, said of the scene: "It makes the heart ache."

The centre, which cares for children aged 1½ to four years, has been the target of burglars recently but never of vandals.

Father of 8 murdered

KFAR KASIM (Itim). - A man was stabbed and mortally wounded Wednesday night as he walked down the main street of this Arab village northeast of Petah Tikva.

The victim, Freij Abu Mustafa, 35, was accompanied by two of his eight children when he was attacked. He was taken in critical condition to Beilinson Hospital, where he died shortly afterwards.

The police have arrested two suspects.

RIBBON. - Thirty employees of the Industry and Trade Ministry have received the Operation Peace for the Galilee Ribbon for their work in the Emergency Foodstuffs Authority.

Two terrorist bombers get 25 years

LOD (Itim). - Two terrorists who planted five bombs in 1982 in the Petah Tikva-Kfar Sava area were convicted yesterday and sentenced by the Lod Military Court to 25 years in prison.

The two men, Mohammed Kak and Mufid Kak, both 23, from a small village near Nablus, admitted belonging to Fatah and planting the bombs. Only one of the five bombs exploded slightly damaging a bus stop in Petah Tikva.

The four other bombs, which were discovered in time and safely dismantled, had been hidden in a park in Rosh Ha'ayin, in a flower pot in a Petah Tikva branch of Bank Hapoalim, in a garbage can outside an abandoned house in Kfar Sava and under a private automobile.

The military prosecutor asked the court to impose a heavy sentence, arguing that the accused had intended to cause much harm. The defence pleaded that the accused

had committed their acts as part of an ideological struggle, which would not be deterred by a long sentence. In pleading for a light sentence, defence counsel Fuad Boulous also cited the 28-month sentence recently imposed on a Jewish terrorist who had stolen 50 land mines from the Israel Defence Forces, which he argued represented a potentially more serious offence.

The court rejected this argument, ruling that the bombs planted by the accused were indeed dangerous and that only a miracle had prevented them from causing heavy loss of life and property. The court imposed less than the maximum sentence only because such destruction had been averted.

The indictment noted that Mohammed Kak had joined Fatah in 1982 and had fought with the terrorist organization at Beirut Airport against the Israel Defence Forces before returning to Samaria.

A leading automobile importer told The Jerusalem Post that the regulation might paralyze the car-import business. Automobile importers met in Tel Aviv yesterday in a state of panic to discuss what steps to take in response to the regulation.

Karameh praises S. Lebanon 'guerrillas'

BEIRUT (AP). - Mortar, multiple rocket launcher and machine-gun battles in Lebanon's second largest city tapered off yesterday on occasional sniping. The police said the two days of fighting has claimed 25 lives and 100 civilian injuries.

Meanwhile, Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karameh said his national coalition government "respects very highly the people waging guerrilla warfare against the Israeli occupation army in South Lebanon."

The Syrian-backed premier also said that Lebanon wants to maintain "good relations" with the U.S. in the wake of the termination of the 17-month U.S. peace-keeping effort in Beirut.

"It is natural for any people whose land is occupied by an enemy to resist. That is what is going on in southern Lebanon, and for this reason, the government respects very highly this resistance and wants to see Israel withdraw as quickly as possible," Karameh said.

The 62-year-old leader made his comments on the plane that carried him on his first visit to the Syrian capital since he formed his half-Christian, half-Muslim government on April 30 to try to end Lebanon's civil war.

Karameh said his government had "discussed but not yet reached a decision" whether to pay compensation to the families of Lebanese who die in attacks on the Israeli Army in southern Lebanon.

The Tripoli fighting involved pro- and anti-Syrian Muslim militias, vying for dominance of Tripoli, 80 km. north of Beirut. The police said the combat grounds centred in the port city's seaside slums as well as some residential neighbourhoods.

The police and local radio stations said the fighting tapered off in the afternoon into occasional sniper fire, and a cease-fire called at 3.00 p.m. appeared to be holding.

The two rival militias, the Syrian-backed Arab Red Knights and the fundamentalist gunmen of the Islamic Unification movement, have fought frequently during the last two years in Tripoli.

Grenade attack, boobytrapped car in S. Lebanon

NABATIYA (Itim). - The South Lebanon Army yesterday ordered Nabatiya merchants to close their stores after a terrorist threw a hand grenade at the southern entrance to the town. SLA units also sealed the area and conducted searches for the attacker.

Elsewhere in South Lebanon yesterday, a booby-trapped car containing about 200 kilograms of explosives was discovered near the village of Reihan. Israel Defence Forces sappers safely dismantled the charge.

BAGRUT. - Twenty-five high-school teachers volunteered to take the standard matriculation (bagrut) examination this year in advance of the country's pupils. They were then asked by the Education Ministry to assess the exams and make suggestions for improvement.

Man held in presumed murder of missing woman

TEL AVIV (Itim). - A Jaffa man was arrested by the Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday for 15 days on suspicion of involvement in the murder of a woman who disappeared over two years ago.

The suspect, Yitzhak Alajem, 27, was a neighbour of the missing woman, Orly Biton, 25, also of Jaffa. The police suspect that she was murdered by Alajem and others, and yesterday submitted classified evidence to the court to support their request for a remand order.

Alajem denied any connection with Biton's disappearance and presumed murder. The police representative told the court that the murder investigation is only beginning and that more evidence must be gathered.

School exams delayed in two parts of Lebanon

BEIRUT (Reuters). - Lebanon's Education Ministry has postponed examinations for high school certificates in South Lebanon because the Israeli authorities are preventing exam papers from reaching the area, ministry officials said yesterday.

The exams were also postponed indefinitely for North Lebanon because of heavy fighting between rival Muslim militias in the port of Tripoli they said.

GHALI. - Butros Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, left yesterday for a two-week official visit to Japan and China.

Architect ARIEH SHARON

The funeral will take place on Sunday, July 29, 1984, at 3:30 p.m. at the Nahlat Yitzhak Cemetery.

The Family
Buses will leave at 3 p.m. from the home of the Sharon family, 224 Rehov Hayarkon, Tel Aviv.

The unveiling of the tombstone and a memorial service for my dear wife
CORAL MORCOWITZ
née Dent
will take place at 6.00 p.m. on Monday, July 30, 1984, at Beersheba Cemetery.
We shall meet at the entrance at 5.45 p.m.
Sam Morcowitz

On the 30th day after the passing of our beloved
SALO GLOTTMAN
a memorial service and unveiling of the tombstone will be held on Tuesday, July 31, 1984 at 5.30 p.m. at the Kfar Samir Cemetery, Haifa. We will meet at the main gate at 5.30 p.m.
Thes Glottman
Oscar, Dalia, Glottman and family

Bar-Ilan University expresses condolences to Renata and Henry Knobil on the passing of Mrs. Knobil's Mother
May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.



Crowd of onlookers in Jerusalem's Mea She'arim district watches yesterday as firemen battle blaze in the Batei Warsaw quarter. All the Tora scrolls in the building were saved. (Rahamin Israeli)

Tripoli death toll at 25

BEIRUT (AP). - Mortar, multiple rocket launcher and machine-gun battles in Lebanon's second largest city tapered off yesterday on occasional sniping. The police said the two days of fighting has claimed 25 lives and 100 civilian injuries.

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Histadrut rejects Orgad's 'package-deal' talks

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV. - Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar yesterday rejected Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad's call for "package deal" talks to begin next week, saying that "talks with a transition government are not realistic."

The Histadrut wants to participate in the long-term healing of the economy, which cannot be done in the two or three weeks until the formulation of a new government, Kessar said.

Kessar reacted strongly to reports emanating from the Treasury that it intends to make unilateral changes in the cost-of-living agreement signed with the Histadrut three months ago. "The Histadrut will fight to prevent that with all the means at our disposal," he said.

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Tawil contradicts terror defendant

By DAVID RICHARDSON
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Testimony given yesterday in Jerusalem District Court by Ibrahim Tawil, former mayor of Al-Bira north of Jerusalem directly contradicted that of Seren (Captain) Aharon Gila, a military government official on trial for complicity in the 1980 bombing attacks on Palestinian leaders in the West Bank.

Tawil, who was deposed in 1982, testified that Druse Border Police Officer Suleiman Hirbawi had approached the garage where Tawil's car was parked alone. Tawil said he himself and Gila had been some 10 metres away when the bomb hidden in the driveway exploded.

Tawil was called as prosecution witness in the trial of Gila and Rav-Seren (Major) Shlomo Leviatan, another military government officer charged with complicity in the bombings.

His testimony contradicted Gila's version of the events preceding the explosion and supported the testimony of Hirbawi, who was blinded in the blast. Gila insisted in his statement to the police that he had accompanied Hirbawi up the path and was close to him when the sapper inadvertently touched a nylon trip wire that set off the bomb. This supports his defence that he had no real idea where the bomb had been planted and could not really have warned Hirbawi more than he did.

Pointing to an "X" he had marked on a police sketch, Tawil said: "As far as I can remember Roni (Gila) was standing on the road. Hirbawi and I went to the side of the garage and looked through a window at my car inside."

He asked me if everything was as I left it. I said it was. "We went back to the road and we spoke. Then Hirbawi went on his own up the path towards the garage door. I was standing, Roni and I, both of us on the road at the same place where he had been standing when I went with Hirbawi to the window. We were talking when there was a sudden explosion. We ran to the other side of the road and fell to the earth. When the dust had settled we went back and lifted up Hirbawi and put him into an ambulance that was passing by."

Gila asserts that he was close to Hirbawi when the bomb exploded and was fleeing aside by the blast and injured. Tawil said yesterday that he was hurt on the hand and Gila on the leg when they fell to the ground after the blast.

During their cross examination, the defence attorneys Weinstein and Rubin tried consistently to undermine Tawil's credibility and testimony. At times their questions prompted protests from the prosecution that the defence was "asking irrelevant and provocative questions."

Tawil, who was accompanied by his own legal counsel, Darwish Nas-



Ibrahim Tawil (Yitzhak Harari)

ser, was at times extremely evasive and frequently resorted to "I don't remember" under the persistent cross-examination.

Nonetheless, he stuck to the main points of his testimony and denied that he was a member of the PLO or any other organization hostile to Israel. In answer to a direct question, he said he recognized the Israeli court before which he was testifying.

Tawil was followed by Aluf-Mishne (Lt.-Col.) Freddy Zach, the acting head of the Judea and Samaria Civil Administration. Zach was asked about the command and reporting structure of the military government at the time and stressed that there was "a duty to report" applicable to every soldier and officer in the Israel Defense Forces.

Zach, who was the military governor of the Hebron District at the time of the bomb attacks, testified that Gila subsequently served as a civil administration officer under him in Hebron for a year. He had a high opinion of Gila but said under cross-examination that he would not entrust intelligence or operations responsibilities to him.

With Zach's testimony the prosecution has adjourned its case pending the outcome of the main terrorist trial. That involves the people accused of actually planning the attacks and planting the bombs meant for the leaders of the now banned radical representation of West Bank Arabs, the National Guidance Committee.

Two of the key witnesses in the trial of Leviatan and Gila are among the alleged leaders of the Jewish terrorist organization and their evidence cannot be heard until their trial has been concluded. The first part of main trial is due to resume after the summer court recess on September 16.

NEW ANALYSIS/Sarah Honig

Parties haven't yet worked out price of unity government

Neither the Likud nor the Alignment has yet given serious consideration to the question of which portfolios to offer the other in a national unity government headed by it. The Alignment appears to be assuming that such a government will not be formed; but it hopes to win credit for making the effort.

The Likud is said to be prepared to offer the Alignment the defence and foreign affairs portfolios, as well as a deputy-premiership. The Alignment hopes to restrict the Likud to minor portfolios, if it heads the government.

In a national unity government under Shimon Peres, the Alignment would seek to put the Likud where it was in 1967, when the Likud's predecessor, Gahal, was admitted to Levi Eshkol's government. At the time Gahal got the relatively minor portfolios of transport (which went to Ezer Weizman) and development (Haim Landau) and two of its representatives were also ministers-without-portfolio (Menachem Begin and Elimelech Rimalt).

A number of highly placed Labour sources told *The Jerusalem Post* that this is what the Alignment would offer the Likud if a partnership between the two parties again becomes unavoidable. "We will not share power equally, especially as senior portfolios are already earmarked for Labour politicians, and some will have to go to the smaller party leaders. This will cause enough of an upheaval in the party," a top Labour man explained to *The Post*. He added that his party would also not be ready to forgo control of major policy-making spheres, since that would make it impossible for it to implement its own principles.

It was noted that Labour leaders do not always use the term "national unity government." The favourite phrase is "as wide a coalition as possible," which is seen as a code phrase for attracting the Liberals into a Labour-led coalition and away from Herut. Labour, it is openly admitted in the party, would be willing to pay more even for Liberal participation in its coalition than for

partnership with the entire Likud. The Likud, *The Post* has learned, is ready to let Labour have such portfolios as defence and foreign affairs if Labour joins a Likud-led national unity government. The post of deputy prime minister and acting premier would also be Labour's.

Portfolios would be evenly split, both numerically and in consideration of rank and importance, the Likud sources said. They explained that the Likud has a greater fear than Labour about returning to the opposition.

Political observers last night pointed to an interview granted to *Galei Zahav* yesterday by Labour Secretary-General Haim Bar-Lev, who said that a national unity government as such was not his party's primary objective. "First we must set up a narrow coalition of our own and then seek to expand it," he said. "How we expand it remains to be seen." Bar-Lev did not speak of a national unity government, and his "expanded coalition" could mean attracting religious parties that

might not enter a Labour coalition before Labour demonstrates its ability to win at least a minimal Knesset majority.

Because a narrow government is a prerequisite for either large party, whether it is more or less serious about a national unity government at this stage, the talk of a national unity government can be seen as the "nectar" used by the large parties to attract the "bees" of the small potential partners to their own respective blossoms. Only the party that demonstrates in the first phase that it is able to put together a narrow coalition can in the end act as the formation of a national unity government, under its leadership and not that of the rival party.

Political observers doubt that a national unity government will be formed. They doubt the sincerity of the desire for such a government by the small parties. These parties may be paying lip service to a popular cause, which no one wants to be blamed for thwarting.

Coalition deadlock may delay election of speaker

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN, Post Knesset Reporter

Traditionally, a new Knesset elects the speaker at its opening session, after the newly elected members take the pledge of loyalty. But neither the Basic Law: The Knesset nor the House Rules specify when the election takes place. If the House deadlocks at its inaugural session on August 13, Interior Minister Yosef Burg may find himself acting speaker for a few days or even a few weeks.

For a member of the executive branch to serve as a member of parliament, let alone as speaker, is certainly a breach of the principle of the separation of powers.

But the law leaves no alternative, and there has even been a precedent, although it did not stem from the House's inability to elect a speaker.

At the inaugural session of the Fourth Knesset, in November 1959, Kadish Luz was elected speaker. Luz was agriculture minister in the outgoing government, but a new government had not yet been formed, and members of a transition government may not resign.

Luz, to be sure, stopped dealing with ministry affairs and attending cabinet meetings.

Article 13 of the Basic Law: The Knesset provides that the first session of a new Knesset shall be opened by the president of the state, who then turns the gavel over to the eldest member of the Knesset.

Although the law says nothing about the president's making a speech, he

does so; otherwise, he might look like a mere functionary.

Article 14 prescribes that the oldest MK then take the pledge of loyalty, which reads: "I undertake to be loyal to the State of Israel and to faithfully carry out my mandate in the Knesset."

He then reads out the oath and each member, when his name is called, rises in his place and says: "I so undertake."

Only after the law goes on to other subjects does Article 20 say: "The Knesset shall elect from among its members a speaker and deputy speakers. There is no time limit."

Para. 4 of the Knesset Rules makes it explicit: "Until the speaker is elected, the eldest Knesset member shall fill the office of the speaker."

Veteran Knesset observers do not recall an instance in which the speaker was not elected on the opening day. What makes things different this time is the uncertainty that the party with the most Knesset seats will be the party that forms the coalition.

If the Alignment can muster a majority for its candidates for speaker—said to be Shlomo Hillel—there does not appear to be any way the Likud can block them.

But the small parties that are negotiating with both sides would undoubtedly support a Likud motion to postpone the election until the coalition problem is settled.

AJ Congress leaders call Kahane 'Israel's Farrakhan'

BY JUDY SIEGEL

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Leaders of the American Jewish Congress yesterday called Kach leader Meir Kahane "Israel's Farrakhan" and said there is little difference between his ideology and that of neo-Nazis.

Theodore Mann, president of the A.J.C., told news conference in Jerusalem that Kahane is an extremist whose views are endorsed by a negligible minority of American Jews, just as Louis Farrakhan, the Black Muslim minister who has made many anti-Semitic statements, is a fanatic.

AJC executive director Henry Siegman said that "in the unlikely eventuality that Kahane, elected to the Knesset in Monday's elections, significantly increases his following in Israel, the relationship between American Jewry and Israel will be adversely affected. The fact that Kahane is an 'American export' and that he will get immunity as a result of the election process is

"appalling," said Mann.

The only hopeful result of the election, he continued, was that it may lead to electoral reform.

The A.J.C., Mann said, does not usually comment on Israeli candidates for the Knesset, but if its leaders had known that Kahane would get a seat, it would have condemned him because he is a "special case." Mann said he was encouraged by the widespread condemnation of Kahane, including that of former premier Menachem Begin.

Turning to American affairs, Mann said that Jewish-black relations in the U.S. "are not as good as they could be, but they are not as bad as many believe," following tensions aroused by Jesse Jackson's bid for the presidential nomination. Black members of Congress, he continued, are among the strongest supporters of Jews on many matters.

The A.J.C. leaders would not predict how the Jewish vote would go in the coming presidential elections.

Calls increase for action against Kahane

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Increased calls were heard yesterday from various political and social bodies for action against Kach leader Meir Kahane.

The secretariat of the Mapam-Hashomer Hatzair Kibbutz Arzi movement called on Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir, the Knesset and the Police to act against the "racism personified by Kahane." A public, legal and educational struggle must be undertaken against Kach "before blood is spilled in the area," the kibbutz secretariat said.

The Shinui council also called on Zamir and the police to take action against Kahane and his supporters. The council empowered the party's Knesset faction to present a "bill outlawing racist incitement and cancelling the parliamentary immunity of Knesset members accused of incitement."

"The tone and content of Kahane's statements are similar to those of the worst of anti-Semites," the Shinui statement said.

The Histadrut decided yesterday to convene an emergency meeting of senior activists in the Arab and Druse sector to deal with the situation created by Kahane's election to the Knesset. The meeting will take place next Sunday under the chairmanship of central committee member Gideon Ben-Israel.

New top manager at Ports Authority

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The new general manager of the Israel Ports Authority is Shaul Raziel, replacing Yitzhak Rahav. Appointed general manager in 1977, Rahav is slated to become general manager of Zim.

Raziel is 56 and has held managerial posts in the Israel Chemicals company and Gadot Haroshet.

AWARD. — The first annual JDC/Joan Kagan Award has been presented to Ami Segov, director of the Beit Edelstein Community Centre in Kiryat Shmona.

KAHANE/SEPHARDI

(Continued from Page One)

following breakdown by ethnic origins:

Group	% voted Kahane	% voted Eliav
Islamic-country Jews	2.5	0.4
European-origin Jews	0.5	1.4
Israel Arabs — less than 13	0.1	0.4
Total	1.3	0.7

2.5 per cent of Islamic-country Jews, who make up half of the Jewish vote, voted for Kahane. That is, if they constituted the total Jewish population, they would have given Kach three seats.

"The European-origin population, as in the past, rejected Kahane overwhelmingly," thus Kahane, himself of

American origin, and his supporters, also overwhelmingly of European/American origins, were sent to the Knesset on the votes of Sephardi Jewish voters.

Eliav presents a total contrast. While he has devoted his life to the Jews of Islamic-country origin, and seeks a peaceful solution to the Israel-Arab conflict, these Jews totally rejected him at the polls.

European-origin Jews alone would have given him a place in the Knesset, but not enough of them supported him to offset the total lack of support by Israeli Arabs as well as the Islamic-origin Jews. Therefore, he failed to clear the 1 per cent barrier.

50 new officers in S. Lebanon Army

BY MENAHEM HOROWITZ

Jerusalem Post Reporter

MARJAYOUN. — Fifty cadets of the South Lebanon Army received their officer's insignia from SLA commander General Antoine Lahad at a passing-out ceremony here yesterday.

The first class of SLA officers underwent an intensive infantry course.

The SLA at present has 2,500 men, and attempts are being made to recruit more, especially from the Shi'ite population. Earlier this week, SLA troops took up new positions along the Awali River and in Nabatiye.

Lahad yesterday also visited the Shi'ite village of Khiam and cautioned residents against being led into provocations by outside forces. He especially warned against taking part in attacks against the Israel Defense Forces.

At the time of the 1978 Litani Operation, most of the 30,000 people of Khiam fled. The village was known as a sanctuary for the PLO. Two years ago in the wake of Operation Peace for Galilee, the Shi'ite refugees started returning. Khiam now has a population of 15,000 and there is a building boom in the village.

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Saturday, July 28, 9:30 p.m. — SPECIAL "3-Weeks Musical Evening" with SELAH!

Sunday, July 29, 8:00 p.m. — The Democratic National Convention and You — Dr. David Luchins, Special Assistant to U.S. Senator Daniel Moynihan

Monday, July 30, 9:00 p.m. — JEWISH GIANTS — PERSONALITY SKETCHES OF OUR SAGES — YEHOASHUA ENGELMAN

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Julius Berman, President Mark Hazton Shimon Kwestel

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Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America

National Conference of Synagogue Youth

Jaffa fisherman buy Egyptian-made boat

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The first Egyptian boat to be acquired by Israel since the destroyer Ibrahim al-Awal surrendered to the Israeli navy off Haifa during the 1956 Operation Kadesh (Sinai Campaign) has arrived in Israel.

It is an 18-metre-long, 60-ton wooden fishing trawler built by a Port Said shipyard for a group of three Jaffa fishermen headed by Eliezer Levy.

"They paid \$20,000 for the hull and are now fitting it out with engine and tackle in Jaffa. They expect to put it to sea to fish in a month."

Levy told *The Jerusalem Post* that the deal for the ship, believed to be the largest single import from Egypt, except oil, since the peace treaty was signed, had come about "accidentally."

"He was on a pleasure trip in Egypt earlier this year, and by chance passed the Port Said yard, which specializes in building wooden boats."

"We needed a new trawler and preferred a wooden hull because it won't rust," he said.

The yard quickly built the hull, "but once it was ready our troubles started with the Egyptian bureaucracy," Levy said. He found it "unbelievably complex," and in addition the Egyptian officials "didn't appear very enthusiastic about doing business with Israel."

Seaside park opened by Kibbutz Naveh Yam

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — A \$1.3 million seaside recreation park built by Kibbutz Naveh Yam and complete with water slides and swimming pools, was opened yesterday.

Two of the four chutes are said to be the steepest of their kind in the Middle East and have been nicknamed "kamikaze slides" by kibbutz members.

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AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS
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WOMAN AS JEW, JEW AS WOMAN: AN URGENT INQUIRY
Opening Session

Monday evening, July 30, 1984, at 8:30 p.m.

Welcome: Henry Siegman, Exec. Director, AJCongress

Chair: Theodore R. Mann, President, AJCongress

Speakers: Rivka Bar-Yosef, Professor of Sociology, The Hebrew University
First Advisor to the Prime Minister on the Status of Women
Betty Friedan, Founder, National Organization for Women
Author, *The Feminine Mystique*
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American Jews and the U.S. Elections: Prospects, Projections, and Prophecies

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Namibia talks collapse

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters). — South Africa and the Swapo guerrilla group failed to reach agreement on a ceasefire in Namibia (South West Africa) at talks on the Cape Verde Islands, the office of the Namibian administrator-general announced yesterday.

The statement said Administrator-General Willie van Niekerk offered Swapo (South West Africa People's Organization) a ceasefire to end bloodshed.

But Swapo insisted that a ceasefire could only take effect under UN supervision and after the imple-

mentation of a UN independence plan for the territory.

"It was therefore not possible to reach agreement," the statement said.

Van Niekerk, who was appointed by Pretoria to rule the territory for South Africa despite UN calls for its independence, briefed South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha this morning on the talks with Swapo.

Botha maintained a tough stance after the failure of the ceasefire talks and said in a statement South Africa would not hesitate to defend the people of South West Africa.

Bans on Soviet fishing, Polish flights lifted by U.S.

WASHINGTON. — The Reagan administration yesterday eased the ban on Soviet fishing in American waters, imposed after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1980, and lifted some of its sanctions against Poland, in response to Warsaw's announced amnesty for political prisoners.

The announcement on Soviet fishing came as officials disclosed that the administration is moving to give Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko special aircraft landing privileges, making a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz "likely" this fall.

U.S.-Soviet relations have shown signs of improvement in recent weeks, and the State Department announcement said the easing of the fishing ban was partly aimed at

"promoting a constructive dialogue with the Soviet Union and facilitating non-strategic trade exchanges."

The action will allow Soviet fishermen to catch 50,000 tons of fish annually in U.S. Pacific Ocean waters from central California to the Bering sea.

The Washington Post said President Reagan's aides were expected to announce next week that bans on Polish airline flights into the U.S., and on cultural and scientific exchanges between the two countries would end.

But The Post said the administration was not ready to lift the stronger sanctions imposed in protest at the imposition of martial law in December 1981, including a ban on agricultural credit to Poland. (AP, Reuters)

Spain to expel Iranian diplomat today

MADRID (AP). — Mohammed Jfar Nikman, cultural and press attaché to the Iranian Embassy here, will be expelled from Spain today for his alleged participation in a plot that would have resulted in the hijacking of a Saudi Arabian Airlines jetliner in Spain, Foreign Ministry sources said yesterday.

Spain had suggested as an alternative that Nikman give up his diplomatic immunity and be tried in Spain on terrorism charges.

Iranian Ambassador Abdul Karim Sanai, summoned to the Foreign Affairs ministry on Thursday, said his government had accepted Nikman's expulsion.

The Spanish police on Monday arrested four Iranians, three in Barcelona and one in Madrid. The Interior Ministry said they were planning to hijack a Saudi Arabian Airlines jetliner when it landed in Madrid and assassinate an unnamed person or persons.

The Iranians told the police they belonged to an organization called "Martyrs of the Islamic Revolution," described by the Interior Ministry as a "radical Shi'ite group."

Britain to seek three men from Pakistan in killing

LONDON (AP). — Britain will seek the extradition from Pakistan of three Pakistanis wanted in connection with the kidnapping and killing of an Indian diplomat in Britain, the home office said yesterday.

Ravindra Mhatre, 47, was assistant commissioner at the Indian consulate in Birmingham. He disappeared February 3 on his way to his home in Birmingham, and his body was discovered two days later in a farm driveway in Leicestershire.

Soviet woman walks in space

MOSCOW (Reuters). — The Soviet Union has made history with the first space walk by a woman, Svetlana Savitskaya, who tested new equipment vital to the Soviet goal of building a large space station.

Savitskaya, 35, spent nearly four hours outside the orbiting Salyut-7 station Wednesday night with male cosmonaut Vladimir Dzhanibekov and carried out a series of tests with an electron-beam gun which works like a laser.

Former cosmonaut Alexei Leonov, who made the first walk in space by a man in 1965, said her achievement was a "new important step" in space exploration.

Western embassy specialists in Moscow said the walk was predictable as it gave Moscow another space first, and they regarded the testing of the new equipment as of greater importance and interest.

Savitskaya used the electron-beam gun to cut and weld metal plates and deputy flight director Viktor Blagov said it should also be able to apply solder.

The western specialists said the tool appeared to be a vital element in Moscow's plans to build a large permanently-manned space station from units sent up from earth.

Ferraro, Reagan launch campaigns

WASHINGTON (AP). — With Walter Mondale vacationing, Geraldine Ferraro launched the Democratic party's national campaign for the November elections on Wednesday while Republican President Ronald Reagan staged his first re-election campaign trip since the naming of the opposition state last week.

Ferraro, the Democratic vice-presidential nominee, said in a speech in Boston that Reagan was attempting to "play the hero" by contending that he had no plans to raise taxes, and rejected Reagan's assertion that she and Walter Mondale are free-spending liberals.

In Texas, Reagan portrayed the Mondale-Ferraro team as "so far Left, they've left America."

"If you take a look at where I am as a person who is concerned about fiscal policies of this country, I'm fiscally conservative," said Ferraro, a member of Congress who represents a New York City district. "I'm extremely concerned about \$200 billion deficits."

Jesse Jackson said Wednesday the followers he collected in his recent unsuccessful drive for the Democratic party presidential nomination are still waiting for the party to make a commitment to blacks and other minorities.

We must relate to the party, but the freedom movement can't get locked to politics," Jackson told several thousand people attending a voter-registration rally on the steps of the Capitol.

60 feared drowned off Sierra Leone coast

FREETOWN (Reuters). — Sixty persons are believed to have died when a passenger boat capsized on the southern coast of Sierra Leone last weekend, the Daily New Citizen said yesterday.

The paper said the Panbali Kamara, a locally-made boat, was carrying 70 passengers, most of them fishermen, from the Plantain Islands to Shenge when it ran into a storm and sank.

Numeri upholds orders of hangings, crucifixion

KHARTOUM (AP). — President Gaafar Numeri has upheld hangings, crucifixion and amputations in the case of five men found guilty of robbery and murder, the Sudan News Agency reported yesterday.

Suna said a court in Port Sudan had ordered the sentences after convicting the five of beating another man senseless with a tire iron and burying him alive in order to steal seven Sudanese pounds (\$9). The victim died of suffocation, the agency said.

There was no word when the sentences would be carried out.

Blue, smogless skies welcome Olympics

LOS ANGELES (AP). — Warm, sunny weather and blue, smogless skies will grace the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum for Saturday's opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games, forecasters said on Wednesday.

"The sky will be blue," predicted James Birakos, Deputy Executive Officer of the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Olympic forecaster David Carman of the National Weather Service said, "We're expecting a fair, sunny afternoon with highs in the low 80s (26 to 28 Centigrade)."

This means good weather without smog for the Olympics.

More than 650,000 visitors are expected to be in town when an athlete as yet unknown will bring the flame carried in relays from Greece to light the torch to launch the first

Games in Los Angeles for 52 years. It is strongly rumored that this athlete will be Nadia Comaneci, of Romania, the darling of the Montreal Games, where she scored seven perfect tens in the gymnastics.

"It's going to be someone really well known, or someone chilling — a runner or couple of runners that send goose-bumps down the spine," said Peter Ueberroth, the President of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee.

Romania is the only Eastern-bloc nation here, having declined to join the Soviet-inspired Olympic boycott by 14 countries. Ueberroth has said the Romanians typify the Olympic ideal, resisting the political pressure of her neighbors and coming to the games for the sport of it. Wherever they have appeared in public in this

Olympic city, the Romanians have been accorded the warmest of welcomes.

"Most of the athletes and even some visitors already are in town, and things are running very smoothly so far," Richard Levin, spokesman for the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, said on Wednesday. "I think a lot of people's fears were overblown."

Security is tight all over the city. Eighty helicopters and two dirigibles operated by police have been hovering overhead. The Olympic villages at UCLA, the University of Southern California and the University of California's Santa Barbara campus, which will house the 7,300 competitors from 141 countries, are surrounded by metal detectors and special military attack teams.

But behind the double rows of

barbed-wire fence and a three-stop security check, the athletes are living in close quarters in a lush, spring-like setting. Freshly planted penumbra marigolds and zinnias are in bloom. Tall, slender eucalyptus and pine trees move gently in the breeze.

Zhu Jianhua, China's high jumper, world record-holder, warmed up his bid to land an Olympic gold medal by winning his event with ease in a pre-games meeting here on Wednesday. He needed two efforts to achieve 2.28 metres but cleared 2.33 at his first attempt, a height good enough to win.

"It was more or less just a training workshop for me. I think I could have jumped higher. I'm sure the winning height will be higher in the Olympics. This was enough tonight," Zhu said.

Sports

Ho rides the waves to glory

By PAUL KOHN
TEL AVIV. — Derek Ho, 21, of Hawaii, yesterday won the two day International Surfing Meet off the Carlton Hotel beach here.

He drove the much fancied Australians, Wayne "Rabbit" Bartolomeo and Kingsley Locker, into second and third places respectively, with his older brother Michael Ho coming fourth.

Bartolomeo, world champion in 1979, is still rated one of the world's top three surfers.

Thousands of spectators watched spellbound as the surfers rode waves five to six feet high. Maoz Miller, 18, of Netanya, was the most successful Israeli surfer, coming 15th among the 42 participants.

The Carlton Hotel hosted the foreign competitors. There are 15,000 Israeli surfers. A vacation chairman Leo Unger told me.

England muff magnificent start

MANCHESTER (AP). — Gordon Greenidge and Jeff Dujon both scored centuries and rescued the West Indies from a shaky start on the first day of the fourth Test against England at Old Trafford on Thursday. The two batsmen added 197 for the fifth wicket after the first four wickets tumbled for 70, due to some magnificent bowling by fast bowler Paul Allott.

Dujon scored 101, his third Test century, and was out just before the close when his team were 273 for 5. Greenidge was unbeaten on 124 with nightwatchman Winston Davis on two.

Allott took three vital wickets during the opening morning session, here to give England a highly promising start.

At lunch, on a hazy, dry morning, West Indies were 77 for four, captain Clive Lloyd hit the top and chosen to bat in his bid for a fourth consecutive convincing win in the series.

Allott, who was surprisingly not asked to open the attack by England captain David Gower, came on after 14 overs and quickly removed Larry Gomes, Vivian Richards and Clive Lloyd in a devastating spell of controlled medium-fast bowling.

Earlier, opener Desmond Haynes was caught by Gordon Cowans in Ian Botham's second over, after the all-rounder had surprisingly opened the England attack on Allott's home ground.

Greenidge and Dujon scored at the rate of a run a minute. They hammered all the bowlers.

Perkis' brave effort

Israel's No. 2 tennis player, Shai Perkis, 21, was beaten 6-3, 6-4 by Brian Teacher on Wednesday, in the second round of the \$100,000 Austrian Open. Perkis beat Brazilian Joao Soares 6-0, 6-4 in the first round.

Aaron Krickstein, who won the U.S. Pro Open earlier this week, has agreed to defend his title in the Israel Tennis Centre's Grand Prix tournament at Ramat Hasharon, from September 10 to 15. He won the event last year at age 16.

Baseball: Wednesday

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Chicago 9, Philadelphia 4; New York 9, St. Louis 5; San Francisco 7, Houston 3; Pittsburgh 3, Montreal 1; Los Angeles 2, Atlanta 11; San Diego 6, Cincinnati 5.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Cleveland 4, Detroit 11; New York 3, Milwaukee 0; Oakland 1, Minnesota 0; Baltimore 3, Texas 1; Kansas City 5, Toronto 4; 13 innings; Boston 3, Chicago 2, 12 innings; California 1, Seattle 0, 10 innings.

Softball final
The softball crown will be decided tomorrow, in the final best of three games between Los Angeles and Montreal Tel Aviv. The games will be played at Kibbutz Gesser, starting at 11 a.m.

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Derek Ho, winner of the International Surfing Competition (Photo Sammy Schwartz)

7 Poles flee to Sweden in crop-spraying plane

STOCKHOLM (Reuters). — Seven Poles landed in southern Sweden last night escorted by two Swedish fighters after escaping to the West in a crop-spraying plane, the police said.

The refugees, consisting of a couple with three children and two men, flew across the Baltic to the town of Kirstanstad in a single-engine Antonov-7 and asked for political asylum.

W. German peace movement calls for autumn protest

BONN (Reuters). — West Germany's peace movement, subdued since it failed to stop new U.S. nuclear missiles from being deployed in the country last December, said yesterday it is returning to the offensive with another "hot autumn" of protest.

Movement leader Jo Leinen said the climax of the eight-week campaign would be a 210 kilometre human chain stretching on October 20 from a site he alleged was earmarked for U.S. cruise nuclear missiles to the Ruhr industrial town of Duisburg.

Police break up anti-Marcos protest in Manila

MANILA (AP). — Anti-Riot police lobbed tear gas into a retreating line of 2,000 protesters on a downtown bridge yesterday, spreading momentary panic through Manila's crowded Quiapo district.

There was no immediate report of injuries or arrests in the incident, which occurred at the height of the late-afternoon rush hour.

The line of students, labourers, housewives, and some nuns and priests protesting against President Ferdinand Marcos's 19-year rule had been turned back in attempts to rally in front of Manila's police headquarters. The demonstrators were led by Agapito Aquino, the brother of assassinated opposition leader Benigno Aquino.

Pakistan opposition says government banned meeting

KARACHI (Reuters). — Pakistan's military government yesterday banned eight opposition politicians from entering the Punjab for a private meeting in Lahore today, opposition spokesmen said.

Khwaja Khairuddin, secretary general of the 11-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), said the meeting was to discuss Pakistan's planned election and transfer of power to civilian representatives.

Fatheyab Ali Khan, president of the Workers and Peasants Party, said the government had banned the eight politicians from entering Punjab for one month. Local police would neither confirm nor deny the serving of ban orders on the opposition leaders.

U.S. House approves religious meetings in schools

WASHINGTON (AP). — The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday voted 337-77 to allow student religious meetings in public high schools, reversing the chamber's defeat of a similar bill last May.

The law, already passed by the Senate, amends a bill providing almost \$1 billion over two years to strengthen the teaching of mathematics and science. If the full bill passes without change, the legislation would go to the White House for President Ronald Reagan's expected signature.

South African black pupils boycott to curb beating

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters). — About 3,500 black South African secondary school pupils are boycotting classes in Tembisa township northeast of Johannesburg, local education officials said yesterday.

Three out of the four schools in the township are affected, the officials added. Pupils are demanding less corporal punishment and more student involvement in decision-making.

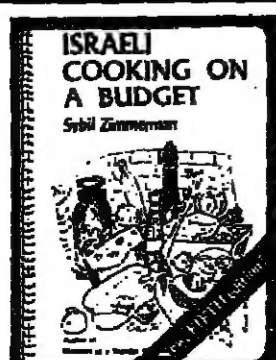
VISIT. — Egyptian Foreign Minister Emad Abdel Meguid has accepted an official invitation to visit Romania. Foreign Ministry officials in Cairo said yesterday.

TROUBLED TIES. — Nato's new secretary-general, Lord Carrington, arrived yesterday for talks with the Socialist Greek government on its troubled relations with the alliance.

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The selling of a Knesset

By MARK SEGAL / Post Political Correspondent

JUST A FEW months ago, when the election campaign began, the pundits warned the politicians against letting the professional image-makers take over. In the end, it appears that the pundits need not have worried. The admen claim that, on the whole, the politicians kept them on a very tight rein.

This seems to have been particularly true in the big parties. The friction between the PR specialists and the Likud and Labour politicians - which occasionally made front-page news in the press - did not seem to repeat itself with the smaller parties, where harmony and mutual respect seemed to be the order of the day.

But while the advertising men may not have had great influence on the campaigns, the pollsters apparently did. And one of the enigmas of Elections 1983 remains: the discrepancies between most of the public opinion surveys, including those of party pollsters and "public" surveys conducted by our noted opinion-research institutes, and the actual returns on July 23.

These surveys did influence the course of some parties' campaigns, particularly in Labour, where they had the negative effect of raising expectations too high.

David Sawyer, the New York campaign adviser who worked with Labour in both 1981 and 1984, questions whether polls should be published at all in the run-up to the elections. West Germany, he notes, bans the publication of surveys for quite some time before election day.

In the business for 12 years, Sawyer, 48, has counseled such leading U.S. politicians as senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York and Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey. He sees great parallels between the electioneering processes in vast America and tiny Israel, saying that the two countries are more similar than most Israelis would like to admit.

But he thinks it is inaccurate to perceive politics as a form of entertainment, arguing that the campaign often underestimates the sophistication of the public. "After all," he said in a post-election interview, "everyone is exposed to the evening TV newscast. They listen to the radio and read newspapers. It has often been said that the most effective election propaganda can be seen on the nightly news."

Taking the politics-as-entertainment concept to the extreme, I ask Sawyer what he thinks of the use of comedians in election campaigns. Did the big parties get their money's worth from Seth Rivilin (Likud), and the Gashash-Hahiver (Labour), both of whom were paid more than \$200,000 for their party propaganda appearances?

"My overall view," says Sawyer, "is that one has to be extremely careful. Many people regard the elections as too serious a business, especially if the humor employed is too broad. There is a danger that the campaigners will be accused of patronizing the voters by introducing comic acts. Obviously, satire is much more effective and acceptable."

Sawyer's view is not fully shared by Aharon Meidan of the Tal-Arroyo agency, who handled the Likud campaign - at least, as much as the politicians allowed him. Comedians, he thinks, add spice to the electioneering on TV. They reflect the culture of speech in Israel today, and they help to get - and keep - the voter's attention.

Rivilin and the Gashash, Meidan says, served their political masters

well. They both kept viewer attention high, making people listen to the party messages that preceded the jokes. "People may have scoffed at the comedy numbers," he says, "but they loved to watch them."

Meidan thinks that Rivilin, who dealt more in satire than in comedy, was more effective than the Gashash. He was also more credible because of his ideological commitment to the Herut-Likud line he was selling.

ADVERTISING is a small world in Israel. Its interlocking relationships are personified by the case of Bob Arroyo and Avner Barel, once partners in the Keshet agency, until Arroyo broke away to join veteran adman Eliahu Tal in the Tal-Arroyo firm. Barel and his three partners - Arye Ruthenberg, Zvi (Chichko) Friedman and Dan Hayun - formed Keshet-Barel, which galvanized the trade with its inventiveness. In the 1981 campaign, Keshet-Barel worked for the Likud, while Tal-Arroyo conducted the "Aleph - Citizens for Peres" drive.

This time around, the two agencies switched sides. Keshet-Barel "waited for the phone call" which would give it the Likud account (though not out of any particular ideological commitment). But the Likud opted for the smaller agency, where Arroyo is now the senior partner. Tal has retired, and his place in the agency's top echelon has been taken by Aharon Meidan, who relied on his talents and not on the fact that he's married to Tal's daughter.

According to some reports, the Likud decision was not unaffected by the fact that junior partner Rachel Kremerman, daughter of Herut's Ya'acov Meridor, and account executive Limor Livnat are both active Herutniks. Kremerman, who was on the Herut "panel" of Knesset candidates (but not in a "safe" spot) and Livnat, the Likud campaign organization's spokesperson, are both close friends of Yoram Aridor.

When I met with Barel and Ruthenberg after the 1981 elections, the two partners led me to believe that they had "seen the Likud light," at least in part. But they had also cautioned me, telling of the time they had taken on the account of a smart Italian car, and had each subsequently bought one. Within a year, they related, they sold their automobiles.

In 1984, Ruthenberg and Barel are totally circumspect on the subject, and do not profess any kind of loyalty to the product they were selling, apart from that of doing their jobs properly. Sitting in their brand-new office building (in the next room, electricians are busy installing power points), Barel confirms reports that they were waiting for an offer from the Likud. When that proposal did not come, they were obliged to accept the Labour offer.

"It was a professional challenge. The political connection ended the day after the elections," Arye Ruthenberg earns his partner's concurrence as he continues: "There are nice people and not so nice people in all of the parties. Once you get close to them in a working relationship, the fanaticism fades."

Barel adds that he found - in the



Aharon Meidan... 'People scoffed, but they loved to watch.'

Arye Ruthenberg... 'Once you get close, the fanaticism fades.'

Likud in 1981 and this time in Labour - that the top-level leadership is of the highest quality. "They are open-minded and ready to listen. They are invariably very caring people. The trouble begins at the second level, especially in the Labour campaign organization."

Across town, near the Mann Auditorium, Aharon Meidan is asked about the measure of his belief in the Likud product. He replies that like Likud campaign copywriter, Degania-born Uri Sela, he too grew up on a kibbutz (Geshet Haziv), where his kindergarten teacher was Emma, today wife of pollster Hanoch Smith.

Meidan admits to having spent some time soul-searching before accepting the account. But I gather that agony was short. He had always been for big-party rule, admiring U.S.-style politics, and had found little ideological differences between the Big Two. The question he asked himself was which party could provide the better team to run the country, and he concluded that there was little to choose between the front benches of the Likud and Labour.

From my conversations with both agencies, it emerges that both campaign teams had their running-in troubles, but that the Likud's operation ran more smoothly at the top than that of Labour. In the end, the Likud policy-makers and professionals had a more harmonious relationship than in Labour, where the pros emerged bitterly frustrated.

In the smaller parties, things ran fairly smoothly. At Yahad, Ezer Weizman performing as superstar, did not interfere in the day-to-day work of the Winer-Jacobson-Tamir agency. Reuven Winer, in fact, set the pace for the other parties advertising on the boardings and in the press.

It is generally agreed among politicians and professionals alike that of the smaller parties, the campaigns of the National Religious Party and Shinui were most effective. That was especially the case in maximum utilization of their limited TV time. While Shinui certainly ran the most sophisticated campaign, the NRP was most effective in getting across its "The Day After" message with the lamp shattering into fragments warning against voting for a splinter party.

This was the first time the NRP resorted to an agency, picking Uri

Eylon's outfit and leaving its TV spots up to Micha Shagrir's Jerusalem Communications Centre. None of the Eylon team assigned to the NRP account was religious, but they got on famously with the NRP policy-makers led by Yehuda Ben-Meir, of whom campaign spokesman Kalman Bar-On, formerly of El Al, speaks admiringly.

He talks of it as "a fascinating experience," singling out other members of the NRP team, especially Yitzhak Meir and Arye Hahn, for top marks. They all worked in harmony and let copywriter Miriam Adorati get on with her job.

Shinui's top campaign trio of Amnon Rubinstein, Mordechai Virshupski and Avraham Poraz found an amenable professional team at Pirsom OK, led by Mickie Kaufman. They were lucky in having cameraman Noam Yavor, a long-time Shinui supporter, in charge of their TV production.

Back at Tal-Arroyo, Aharon Meidan recalls the Likud's gloomy mood when the campaign started. The polls indicated that 18 per cent of former Likud voters would switch to Labour, with another 30 per cent wavering.

If in 1981 Meidan cheerfully "sold" Shimon Peres as the best choice for Labour, three years later he tried manfully to stop Labour's fairly successful drive to demonize its much-maligned party chairman. He confesses to having been successful in stopping over-zealous Likud politicians, especially Ronnie Milo, from launching a personal attack on Yitzhak Navon.

"I argued, why make a martyr out of him? I knew, as was proven in the Labour campaign, that all the hot air would seep out of that particular balloon."

The 38-year-old advertising agency executive defends the concept of the slogan that launched the Likud campaign - "The National Camp versus the Other Camp," which was subsequently discarded. Meidan insists that the underlying concept was retained throughout the Likud campaign. But he is less convincing when he tries to persuade me (and himself) that the winning theme adopted for the final phase, in which the Likud pushed for a government, differed little from the divisive message of "the national camp."

EVEN though the elections are over, the argument over the Likud campaign continues. Still, it would

live in those neighbourhoods. Nor the kind of pride acquired by the Likud. Then they talked of 'Labour, the Only Hope.' That hardly washed after they presented their top trio on camera, looking like three old-age pensioners."

Meidan reflects the infighting in the Likud team, siding against Gadot and his co-worker Menahem Dotan, and with the dominant trio of Olmert, Milo and Dan Meridor, who along with Justice Minister Moshe Nissim provided the policy-direction.

Meidan offers an insight into the malaise that gripped the Likud campaign at times when their fortunes were dipping in the polls. It was then that their campaign chief, Deputy Premier David Levy, revealed his mettle as a leader, infusing the others with much-needed optimism.

Meidan reveals the dilemma confronting the campaign organizers when pollster Sara Shemer quit as director of the Modi'in Ezrachi Research Institute, and they had the difficult choice of working with her as their own polling expert or continuing with Modi'in Ezrachi boss Shalom Yarkoni, a Likud supporter. In the end, they chose Shemer and found her to be superbly professional. She was the only pollster to predict close to the eventual result, and on July 11 she forecast that Labour would have 45 mandates and the Likud 40-41. That was when Labour was issuing polls indicating a gap of 13 seats in its favour.

What requires study was why the war in Lebanon issue hardly figured in the campaign, except that it worked heavily in the Likud's favour following the appearance of little Lisa Peretz and her mother from Kiryat Shmona, a brilliant performance for which Meidan credits Ehud Olmert.

"If I was working for Labour, I would ask why Labour never introduced the issue of the war. Why they never took up the 'Two Camps' slogan to their advantage, and why after they brought up such a first-class slogan as 'The Only Hope,' they failed to carry it through to the end. I think they should have been sharper; they left the field open to Shinui and the CRM to poach their voters," he observes.

AT KESHER-BAREL, Arye Ruthenberg and Avner Barel react with interest to Meidan's account. Ruthenberg reveals that they had sought to pursue and back up the theme of 'The Only Hope' with the positive message of 'opening up a new page for Israel, with a healthy economy, healthy society and peace with secure borders' backed up by suitable shots on screen. "But Yossi Sarid vetoed the idea, saying it was rubbish. It was only at Shimon Peres' insistence that he finally gave way and grudgingly allowed this theme to

appear on screen. We urged that, as the finale for the last week, when the waverers usually decide which way to jump, to push a positive message of the kind of new challenges that would face Labour. We held that people vote for their hopes of what's going to be, rather than what has been."

Ruthenberg is less than restrained in his criticism of Yossi Sarid, who played a key campaign role. He asks: "Sarid has been involved in a leading role in the 1977, 1981 and 1984 campaigns. If the party has not done as well as expected, why is he still in such a commanding position?"

Ruthenberg says his first conclusion from the campaign is that henceforth "if things don't go as we recommend and we are not allowed to carry out our ideas, we should quit there and then."

Ruthenberg thinks Labour could have emerged with a clear win if it had brought over another three mandates from ex-Likudniks. Hence his disagreement with the arguments raised by Abba Eban and Ya'acov Hazan that Labour should have been more aggressive. The result might have been to take votes that went to Shinui and the CRM, but not, he says, from the faded "floaters."

With the right approach, Ruthenberg insists, Labour could have drawn the 50,000 waverers who made all the difference on Election Day.

The agency, he says, was given a free hand to harp on the Likud's mismanagement of the economy, until the TV broadcasts began. The polls then showed a 10-seat gap in Labour's favour.

"All problems emanated from Sarid's personality and his desire to dominate. Its unprecedented for a member of the political forum to act as copywriter and as TV production manager. He allowed no one else to get to the Gashash and was soon called the fourth member of the early comedy team. He wrote all their copy and directed their act," Ruthenberg charges.

The adman also sought to blame Sarid for the belated awakening of the campaign managers to the threat to Labour's vote from the smaller parties. The admen complain that while they pushed for a positive line in the campaign, to attract the waverers to Labour, Sarid insisted on what they called his negative approach.

The professionals, Barel notes, had their work made that more difficult by the questionable polls they kept getting. But worse still, to his mind, was letting politicians run the professional side.

Ruthenberg believes that Labour had too high expectations, anticipating a switch of 1977 dimensions. The Likud did, they point out, lose 6-7 seats, but Labour did not do well as well as expected in the Arab sector. Barel thinks that if the hard-line advocated by Sarid had been adopted, Labour would have done even worse.

At Labour HQ on election night, David Sawyer concurs, as he tells me: "If only the original strategy had been followed, of keeping emotions out of the campaign. It's a pity Labour shifted from its first plan."

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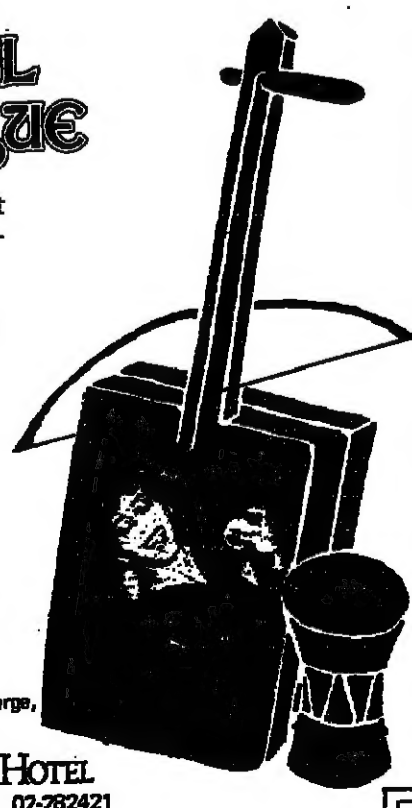
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THE LET-DOWN produced by unrealistic expectations of a runaway Labour victory has already opened the Pandora's Box of recriminations at 110 Rehov Hayarkon. The feeling of so near, but yet so far has prompted the party's powerful Jerusalem branch, led by Uzi Baram, to start floating feelers that their favourite, Yitzhak Navon, and not Shimon Peres, should have a go at forming a government. Of course, this has aroused the camp of Yitzhak Rabin, where it is argued that the experience has a better rapport with the Likudniks than Peres, and that he should be the party's choice to try forming a Grand Coalition, if that is in the cards.

Among those asking questions is Yossi Sarid who, some claim, had a two-dominant role in the information campaign. In 1981, Sarid was kept in check by the information team of the late Moshe Barak and Chaim Herzog. But this time, the fiery leftist MK is said to have run a one-man show, with heavy backing from campaign head Mordechai (Motta) Gur and Peres himself. That complaint is being pushed especially by Arye Rubenberg and Avner Barel of the Keshet-Barel agency, which handled Labour's advertising. Rubenberg told me this week that Sarid is responsible for "isolating the Gashash Habiver entertainers from others on the campaign team," and was to blame for the Yonina Amit ("I can't make it to the end of the month") and poor little rich moshavniks bloopers which cost Labour a lot of credibility.

Sarid has launched a counter-attack, seeking to shift the blame onto Keshet-Barel.

To Sarid's credit, he is not alone in his position. He has been joined by such Labour Alignment luminaries as Ya'acov Hazan of Mapam, Abba Eban and the feisty Yitzhak Ben-Aharon in maintaining the admen's soft-sell approach failed to empha-

size the differences between the two main parties. The voters, they say, were given the impression that the choice was between Tweedledum and Tweedledee, and not two very different political, social and economic points of view.

ANOTHER AREA of criticism is the party's publicity policy, which reflected its ignoring of English-speaking voters almost until the end. Rabbi Menachem Hacohen, head of the party's religious circles, told me that his frequent requests to reach uncommitted religious voters of English-speaking origin in *The Jerusalem Post* and other publications was blocked by Histadrut cultural centre head Nahum Fassa in his role as publicity chief at party campaign HQ. Hacohen said the kibbutznik dismissed the appeal to English-speaking voters as "a waste of time and money." Others say he was prompted to this view by the Keshet-Barel team itself.

People working on the English-speakers' campaign also report that they were given conflicting orders from chief and information head Moshe Shahal. On a number of occasions, they say, orders for material issued from Gur's office were countermanded by Shahal, and vice-versa.

The Labour machine's use of sophisticated computers also caused some comic bloopers. One of the thousands of letters sent by the old-age pensioners division - and signed "Yours faithfully, Shimon Peres" - was computer-addressed to "Dear Yitzhak" and sent to the Rehov Hissin, Tel Aviv address of Yitzhak Shamir.

Another surprising story is that Yitzhak Rabin got a letter from the North Tel Aviv campaign HQ, asking if he and his family needed transport to the polls.

PARTY LOYALTY of some people is also being questioned, particularly that of such prominent party figures as Zvi Kesse and Yitzhak Ben-Aharon, both of whom canvassed votes for Arye (Lova) Eliav's un-

OUT OF PANDORA'S BOX

PUBLIC FACES/Mark Segal



Yitzhak Navon



Yossi Sarid



Aharon Harel

successful attempt to go it alone. Lova's "lost" 14,000 votes. It is charged, may have cost Labour and its allies - the CRM of Shulamit Aloni and Amnon Rubinstein's Shinui - a vital mandate.

THE ATMOSPHERE of recrimination is less predominant in the Likud, where many are relieved that Labour managed again to snatch defeat (or at least near-defeat) from the jaws of victory. But there are some ill feelings amidst the near-unanimous praise for Deputy Premier David Levy, whose campaign cut the huge Labour gap in the polls to a mere three or four mandates on Election Day.

Among the dissatisfied Likudniks are popular Yavne Mayor Meir Shitrit, who claims that Levy favoured Deputy Housing Minister (and Kiryat Malachi mayor) Moshe Katzar with more TV exposure. Other top Herutniks who did not have a big share of time on The Tube include David Magen of Kiryat Gat, a major Arik Sharon backer, and Ronnie Milo, one of Shamir's chief political lieutenants.

And what about the Liberals?

Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, the party chairman, was out of the country for much of the campaign, but his close confidant, Pinhas Goldstein, did not make a television appearance - even though he headed the Election Day machine. Industry and Trade Minister Gideon Patt was in several filmed Likud TV spots, but hardly anyone saw his ministerial colleagues, ministers Avraham (Abrasha) Sharir (Tourism), Moshe Nissim (Justice), and Sara Doron (without portfolio) in the 300-odd minutes of Likud publicity. That's particularly surprising in the case of Nissim, who was, after all, co-head (with Milo) of Likud hasbara.

IF LEVY was generally pleased with the returns, he was concerned with the Likud's poor showing (down 4 per cent) in Lod, where his brother Maxim Levy is mayor. The Likud also lost 5 per cent in Beit She'an, the deputy premier's hometown.

HOPE SPRINGS eternal - at least in the Likud - that Ezer Weizman can be brought back home again. Levy is said to be interested in an alliance with Ezer, in order to keep

the once-unstoppable Arik Sharon out in the cold. But not all Likudniks are mesmerized by Ezer's winning ways. Some are wondering whether the much-publicized leak that Weizman had discussed the Foreign Affairs portfolio with Shimon Peres wasn't a come-on, to raise the ante for Yahad's joining a Likud coalition.

AMONG THE MOST disappointed visitors to Israel this month were Lillian and Stephen Shalom of New York, who discovered that the \$300,000 they had raised for Tami had paid off with only one - or possibly two - mandates for Aharon Abuhatzzeira's party. Abuhatzzeira has been an expensive proposition for the Shaloms, who joined with Nessim Gaon of Geneva and Leon Tamman of Brighton to raise \$500,000 for the ex-minister's legal defence.

MORE THAN 2,000 Jerusalemites got their first chance to see the new Ramada Renaissance Hotel on election night, when they attended a "happening" sponsored by the hostelry and *The Jerusalem Post*. The

overflow crowd watched the confusing Israel TV results on a mammoth TV screen, and then went into another room to hear interpretation and analysis by revolving panels, anchored by Harry Wall, the Israeli representative of B'nai B'rith's ADL. Panelists included Prof. Elhu Katz of the Hebrew University; political analyst Zvi Rafiah; Rabbis Richard Hirsch of the Reform movement and Pessah Schindler of the Conservatives; publicist Eliezer Whartman and public relations man Yitzhak Rogov; travel agent Perry Roded, a one-time activist in the Democratic Movement for Change; Prof. Irwin Cotler of McGill University, and a number of *Post* staffers.

The affair, organized by the hotel's public relations officer, Ruth Abileah, and hotel manager Lazar (Rico) Rosenthal, was broadcast live by New York radio station WNYM.

Down on the Coastal Plain, manager Janos Dason of the Sharon Hotel worked until the wee hours, translating the numbers for the large crowd of English-speaking guests at his election party. Among those who dropped by were diplomats who live nearby, including Australian First Secretary Grant Battersby.

THE PARTY of the week, if not of the season, was the one given on election eve by Mohammed Abdel Aziz Bassiouny, the *charge d'affaires* at the Egyptian embassy. One could have formed a grand coalition from those who passed through the receiving line of Gen. Bassiouny, his wife Ngwa, embassy counsellor Assem Ahmed Megahed and his wife.

The Likud contingent celebrating Egypt's National Day was led by Defence Minister Moshe Arens, Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i and Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir, while Labour was represented by Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin. Yahad's Ezer Weizman swept in just as the band was playing "I Did It My Way."

The diplomatic corps was led by its doyen, U.S. Ambassador Samuel

Lewis, and other guests in the crush included chairman Arye Dulin of the Jewish Agency-WZO, Prof. Itamar Rabinovich of Tel Aviv University, and painter Ya'acov Agam. There were also many dignitaries from the territories, including Bethlehem Mayor Elias Frej.

MANY LABOUR PEOPLE believe that Yitzhak Navon, if given a free hand, could coax the Sephardi Tora Guardians into the Labour embrace. They base themselves on his excellent relations with former Sephardi chief rabbi Ovadia Yosef, who is the spiritual leader of the new ultra-Orthodox party, known as Shas. The party, which drew votes from Agudat Yisrael and Tami, enjoys excellent relations with Labour and Mayor Teddy Kolek in the Jerusalem Municipality where it has a deputy mayor, Rabbi Nissim Ze'ev. It's no secret that Shas's Jerusalem branch chief, Ya'acov Cohen gets on famously with Labour boss Uzi Baram.

I'm advised that a burning ambition of Rabbi Yosef is to settle accounts with Justice Minister Moshe Nissim, whom he holds responsible for his ouster to install Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu in his stead. At the time, Nissim celebrated Yosef's defeat by making a pilgrimage to the Mount of Olives graveside of his father, the late chief rabbi Yitzhak Nissim, who was previously replaced by Yosef, where he reportedly cried: "Father, I have avenged you!" Now the Likud is taking care not to include Nissim in its negotiating team with Shas, replacing him with Deputy Housing Minister Moshe Katzar, who gets on well with the rabbi.

PERHAPS it's a sign of the times, but there was a very small turnout at the 50th anniversary memorial ceremony at the graveside of the national poet, Chaim Nahman Bialik, in the old cemetery on Tel Aviv's Rehov Trumpeldor. There were no official mourners, none from the government, Tel Aviv Municipality, the WZO or the Israel Writers Association, which Bialik founded. Authors Gavriel Talpaz and Avot Yeshurun were among the mourners. They regretted in particular the absence of Lora Eliav, who always talks of how he sat at Bialik's feet as a boy.

A FUNNY THING happened on the way to Joseph and the Amazing Dream at the Wohl Amphitheatre in Tel Aviv's Yarkon Park. A man in a keffiyeh and a pea-green galabiyah hurried through the crowd, cut across the lawn and vanished into the darkness. A couple walking in front of me were perplexed.

She: What, are there Beduin here too?

He: Sure, they come with their camels. You know, for the tourists.

She: Oh, I thought maybe he was an actor or something.

As it turned out, he was an actor or something - one of the Ishmaelites who buys Yossi, as he's called, and sells him into Egypt.

Yossi and family have come home again, via the West, in this Cameri Theatre production of the pop musical by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber. It's a more professional production than most of what we're used to: pure hype and pure fun, and those of us who keep dreaming about the seven lean years will find it relevant.

Pure hype and fun

THEATRE/Marsha Pomerantz

The director is Peter James, manager of London's Lyric Theatre. Hammersmith: the translation is by Ehud Manor, musical direction by Eldad Sharim, choreography by Shlomo Rozmarin. Ruth Dar did the pop galabiyah, and the combination of her stage design and Avi Zabari's lighting made good use of the outdoor setting - with, for instance, electric dates on real palms.

I hope it will not generate sibling rivalry again to say that Danny Litani, as Reuven, was the most impressive - with a strong voice and pre-

sence, at ease with himself and the rest of us. But all the leads were enjoyable: Tikki Dayan as the storyteller, though her words occasionally got lost; Albert Cohen as the Elvis-style Pharaoh in Davy Crockett fringes, who arrives on the scene in a Maof helicopter; and Danny Bassan, a veteran of Tisla, who plays the ingratiating and vengeful Yossi.

There are spoofs on a number of singing styles - from Presley to country and western, Belafonte and Edith Piaf. But here the "Padam, Padam, Padam" and the snatches of accented Hebrew become a take-off on the Diaspora in France and a certain immigrant politician of hyphenated fame.

Even in the country and western style, with Litani seated high on a horse, most of the men are wearing biblical sandals, which is a bit of a spoof on all of us.

So are the stuffed sacks with which the brothers attempt to leave Egypt. They bear such labels as "gefite fish," "cholent," "tzimmes," "kneidlach," "kreplach," and "borscht," demonstrating a largely



Anat Tzohar (left), Hanan Goldblatt and Yankele Jacobson in a scene from 'Not Now, Darling.'

Ashkenazi cooking of the history books.

There are problems. For instance, the chorus of children in red who decorate the stage and are more of an embarrassment than an asset; and the crumbling central steps carved into a set made of sand that resembles three camel humps. Both Mrs. Poliphar (Livia Hachmon) and Tikki Dayan have trouble tripping down them.

But on the whole, with a little bug repellent, it's a good way to stay cool and happy on a summer night.

ANOTHER IMPORTED comedy was available for preview this week at the Neve Zedek Theatre Centre in Tel Aviv - Ray Coney's *Not Now, Darling*, which ran for three seasons in London. It's a production of the Yuval Theatre, a commercial enterprise managed by Miriam Etzioni.

who has recently joined forces with the public Neve Zedek Theatre, as its director-general, in the hope of improving its financial situation.

Avraham Mor and Hanan Goldblatt are the pillars of the production, playing partners in a far business - a reserved, diligent bachelor and a free-wheeling married man whose dallying threatens the business as well as his marriage. There's no danger of enlightenment here regarding the war of the sexes; in this world women exist to wheedle fur coats out of their lovers, and men exist to probe under the coats.

But if you're looking for entertainment rather than enlightenment, this is a fair address. The show is very silly, and usually very funny.

The script is full of double entendres reinvented in Hebrew by Amnon Dankner, who did the translation. Direction is by Leonard Schach, and the serviceable set by Moshe Mussman. The furs are real - just the thing for a summer night under the stars in the theatre courtyard. Anat Tzohar, first runner-up in last year's Miss Israel contest, sinks in and out of *Darling* as the furriers' model.

NEVE ZEDEK has also been previewing *Esher Ish* (*Married Woman*), by a young Tel Aviv playwright named Shimon Zimmer. *Esher Ish* ("Married Woman") features a love triangle, Israeli-style, in which a bachelor named Menahem Blumenfeld, constitutionally under the weather, meets the love of his life, a married woman, on vacation in Safad.

There's something in the philosophical stance of *The Loser*, the triangle itself, and the structure of the play, with songs, that is reminiscent of Hanoah Levin - though the playwright resists the comparison. Zimmer's play has less spleen and less genius but is lively and enjoyable - until it tries to make a political moral comment.

The unfortunate triangle assembles itself shortly before a war - pick any war - and the betrayed husband comes back blind. That turns out to be too much to handle in a skit with ditties. The question of guilt that arises recalls an earlier effort by Zimmer, an all-to-orig autobiographical story of the son of Holocaust survivors, performed at the Acre Fringe Festival last year.

But on the whole, his current work - with Rachel Dayan, Michael Koreish and Nadav Ben-Yehuda - remains refreshingly ironic. And we need a few funny things to happen on the way to wherever we're going.

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Forum

ONE CAN ALMOST swear that a mystic, malevolent hand was at work on Monday night, determining the exact outcome of the elections to the Eleventh Knesset. For it is the extraordinarily balanced division of seats between the Likud, Labour and their respective allies that has resulted in the stalemate between two mutually blocking majorities.

The situation may, of course, change with the shift of one or two seats as a result of the factoring in of the soldiers' vote. Eventually, even more of course, one or more of the leaders of the small parties will surrender in the war of nerves that has been going on since Tuesday morning and will come down on an unexpected side to enable the formation of a shaky Likud- or Labour-led coalition.

But if ever incontestable, incontrovertible proof were needed that the electoral system and the political system we built on it does not work, Monday provided that proof with a vengeance.

To be sure, the pragmatic politicians, once they have recovered from the shock, will be able to make the compromises needed to fashion one coalition or another. All the solutions made possible by the basic distribution of seats in the Knesset decreed by our exquisitely fragmented electorate will, however, be bad. Some, admittedly, will be worse than others. But none will be reasonably good, not from a partisan but from a purely functional point of view.

Take the Likud. If Ezer Weizman supports it with his three-man faction, Yitzhak Shamir will be able to form a coalition based on a 63-vote

majority. But it will comprise no less than nine lists besides the Likud, which is internally divided against itself. And four of those lists will have three or more seats and thus have the power of life and death over that government.

Hardly a formula for a government whose first order of business must be tackling the critical economic situation that has been postponed perilously long due to the luxury of a five-month election campaign.

OR TAKE LABOUR. Even if Weizman goes with the Alignment, the party will have a blocking coalition only if it depends on the Communists and the new Arab-Jewish radical list, an unthinkable precedent for a Zionist party that must face the Israeli voter in the not-too-distant future.

In order to free itself of this dependence, Labour would have to take in seven small lists to make a governing majority. This mish-mash would have to include such basic incompatibles as the NRP and Shulamit Aloni's CRM, or the new Sephardi ultra-Orthodox Shas, Aharon Abutza's Tami and Amnon Rubinstein's Shinui. Hardly a formula for even minimal governmental cohesion.

On top of which it is far from sure that the two religious lists would even want to join in a Labour coalition.

The politicians know this and thus, on the second day of their feinting for position, the idea of a government of national unity has been broached. What is usually glossed over is that they are talking of

Unworkable system

By YOSEF GOELL

two different possibilities: one, the idea of a wall-to-wall coalition; the second, a narrower coalition between the two major parties.

The first possibility - the wall-to-wall coalition from which only the two "Arab" lists and Meir Kahane would be excluded - would, I believe, be the worst of all the alternatives, primarily on functional grounds.

Parties participating in such a grand coalition would number 113 Knesset members. If one takes a minimum ratio of one cabinet minister to each three MKs (and it is doubtful whether the three-seat parties - Yahad, the CRM and Shinui - would agree to a higher ratio), this gives us a super-inflated cabinet of 38 ministers, not counting the deputy ministers who would have to be appointed to assuage the feelings of the four two- and one-seat parties in the coalition.

This would be a political and administrative nightmare. But it would be worse than that. For ministers and deputy ministers mean political clout behind demands for

budgets for their separate operations. No economic policy based on the unavoidable need for a sharp reduction in government spending would be possible with such a government.

WHICH LEAVES the last of the alternatives: a narrower government of national unity consisting of the Likud and Labour only, which would agree on limited goals for a limited period only until different rules of the game could be readied for the holding of new elections.

Relations between these two parties have been such that it takes quite a bit of mind-stretching to envisage them sitting in splendid dual isolation in a joint government. It is admittedly not a good choice, but it recommends itself as the best of bad alternatives.

Realistically speaking, there is very little to prevent the two warring parties from agreeing on a policy for the economic emergency. Where they are most deeply divided is over the issues connected with the Arab-Israeli conflict and with the future of

the territories.

These are issues which can definitely be held in abeyance for a year or so, while joint efforts are made to put the economy back on an even keel and electoral reform is legislated.

It is possible to imagine, for example, an agreement between Likud and Labour that a joint government would take no initiatives for talks with King Hussein or the Palestinians during the period in question, in return for a suspension of further settlement activity in the territories for the same period.

In truth, this is not too much of a compromise to ask for. On the one hand, there is little reason to believe that the readiness of King Hussein or of "moderate" Palestinians for serious talks is more than a chimera. Testing it can certainly wait another year.

Such an agreement could also prove useful for the purpose of keeping the Reagan Plan on ice for yet another year, to which the Likud, and even responsible Labour leaders, should not be averse.

On the other hand, those truly concerned with the settlement of Judea and Samaria should realize that their true interest lies in shoring up the existing, viable settlements.

Admittedly this requires some mind stretching. But under the pressure of events, politicians are already making strange unexpected noises. Shulamit Aloni is ready to clench her teeth and sit with Agudat Yisrael (I'm not sure that the reverse is true). Yossi Sarid is considering entering a coalition with the devil incarnate, Arik Sharon, if that coalition is headed by

Shimon Peres. And extreme doves like Amos Oz and A.B. Yehoshua are urging just such a step.

What is needed is political courage of a kind rarely evinced by our political leaders, but to which many of them can rise, if need be. What is important is to hammer home the message that the present system is no longer workable; that only a fixed-term cooperation between the Likud and Labour can replace it with a workable one, and that if the task is not undertaken now the country may well be in jeopardy.

WHAT FORM the revamping of the system should take is a question that needs debating at length, but separately. My own opinion is that a mere shift to constituency elections will not overcome the deep fragmentation that characterizes Israeli society, and not only its political system.

What is needed, to my mind, is a combination of constituency elections for a parliament and direct popular elections for a president, somewhat like the French system which replaced the moribund Fourth Republic, which we are beginning to resemble more and more.

The political courage that is called for is that of risking the hostility of the small parties on whom Labour and the Likud have always depended to flesh out their needed coalition majorities.

But they must keep their eyes on the goal of electoral reform that would, once and for all, eliminate the power of these small parties to enable the big parties to rule. This does not necessarily mean eliminating the small parties from representation in parliament.

Since the courage for such a radical departure from political norms is rarely evinced by working politicians, what is needed is the active intervention of the president of the state.

The presidency has been fashioned from the beginning as a figurehead position. Presidents in the past have theoretically possessed one political power, that of choosing the Knesset member designated to form a government after elections. In effect, presidents have never had a real choice; they have always automatically chosen the head of the largest party to emerge from the elections.

But this time, specifically because the elections have resulted in a stalemate, President Chaim Herzog will be confronted with the possibility of making a real choice.

He should not wait for the consultations with the faction heads to begin next week, but should actively intervene to inform the party leaders that, since he has the power to make a meaningful choice between real alternatives, he will be guided by the need to revamp the system as much as by the formal results of the elections.

President Herzog, if he shows the courage, can yet establish the precedent that the president is not merely a baby-kissing, Bible-quizzing figurehead. He can be a real head of state, profoundly concerned with the national good, ready to step in when the people and the politicians have hopelessly painted themselves into a box.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

URING THE past three days, party activists and other experts - that is the rest of us - will have calculated all the possible combinations of Knesset mandates. Maybe by then we shall be able to guess who is going to form a government.

If it turns out to be the Alignment, its government will probably have a more stable look: its list of potential partners is longer than that of the Likud. Not only can Shinui (Amnon Rubinstein), CRM (Shulamit Aloni) and Yahad (Ezer Weizman) be regarded as certain collaborators, but both Rakah and the new Progressive List for Peace will give it parliamentary support against the Likud. It will be able to open negotiations with 59 anti-Likud seats actively "secured."

The Likud, on the other hand, has only the Tehiya to count on as a party that will under no circumstances support the Alignment. The Likud/Tehiya can approach the religious parties with only 46 votes in hand. While the leaders are optimistic about the response of the parties, who all voice a preference for the Likud, the fact is that none of them has expressed opposition in principle to joining with the Alignment. There would of course be conditions...

WHAT EMERGES, from the point of view of the nation and the national interests - what has indeed emerged - since the first "exit-poll" of television on Monday night, is that all the

coalition ills and the repeated paralytic strokes that have plagued the Likud government since 1981 will continue to afflict a new coalition government. The economic shake-up, requiring drastic measures with resultant discomfort for the people, will need considerable skill, single-mindedness, determination and courage. There are, to put it mildly, not enough of these qualities in either of the coalitions that could emerge from this week's election.

The Likud, having in mind the grim economic condition of the state, has indeed proposed the formation of a national unity government. The Alignment has so far officially turned this proposal down out of hand, claiming that such a government would be paralyzed by its internal differences. It has insisted on an Alignment victory and the pursuit of an unadulterated Alignment policy. The electorate, however, has not given the Alignment such a mandate; and if it does succeed in forming a government it will be able to command a majority in the Knesset only by satisfying the demands of the confederation of interests which sustain it.

Commonsense, the facts of life, then, carry an unequivocal message to the Alignment - and if a poll were conducted this week the population at large would undoubtedly underwrite its swallow your party pride, as the Likud has already done, and join

Getting their act together

By SHMUEL KATZ

with the Likud in carrying through an economic programme to put the country on its feet. There is little difference between the two parties as to the steps essential for that consummation.

MR. PERES, in rejecting outright the idea of a national unity government, was manifestly seized with the diametrically opposite policies of the two camps on the subject of settling Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

The differences on this issue are indeed not capable of solution by any doctrinal formula as long as the Alignment not only insists that a "territorial compromise" is desirable but pretends that it is feasible. On the mystical assumption that Hussein would negotiate on, and accept, Israel's retaining sovereign possession of about one-third of Judea and Samaria (including united Jerusalem) the Alignment has

"promised" to freeze settlement activity unilaterally.

Now however, Mr. Peres and his colleagues must face the reality that has emerged from the election. The Alignment, long before the election, launched and maintained a heavy barrage of propaganda against the settlement policy. Meeting a growing preponderance of political support for the Jewish presence in the areas, it began to bombard a sorely troubled people with the absurdly untruthful proposition that the establishment of settlement in Judea, Samaria and Gaza is a major factor in Israel's economic malaise. The net expenditure on these settlements, by all authoritative analyses, amounts to about one per cent of the national budget.

But if all the charges in Alignment propaganda were added up it would appear that if only there was no expenditure on settlement Israel

would be rolling in surplus cash. Indeed just about everybody in Israel with a complaint or grievance, personal or collective, has been assured by the Likud's critics, in the Alignment or its satellites, that the settlements were to blame.

The implied economic damage to the nation certainly soured many people against the settlement policy. In spite of this, the parties responsible for the policy have in this election held their ground. The Alignment has certainly not been given a mandate by the electorate to "freeze" the settlements.

It is inconceivable then that the religious parties, when approached by the Alignment to join a coalition, will agree to such a freezing policy. At the least they will insist on a formula to keep in existence the settlement process.

If, in mutual understanding, no final options are foreclosed there should be no insuperable difficulty in evolving such a formula; and Mr. Peres and his colleagues can surely, for a while, give up the pretence that King Hussein is waiting, all agog, to start discussing a "territorial compromise" with them.

Why then should they not put forward such a formula to the Likud - for a government of national unity? Such a government could be set up for a defined period, adequate for the deep revision of economic policy. Indeed during that period the

problem of settlements as a whole could be examined and debated in tranquility within the government. At the end of that period - a new election could be held, in what could be a much more relaxed atmosphere.

THE INDECISIVE election has once more exposed a root cause of our present disarray: the intolerable shortcomings of Israel's electoral system. Proportional representation was essential in the early days of the state. With the tremendous increase in population - it was doubled in about three years - and in its cultural diversity, it seemed only fair that every possible nuance should find expression in parliament.

Those days are long past; and with the integration and comparative "stabilization" of Israeli society, all the possible ills and disadvantages of proportional representation (not to mention famous Jewish factionalism) have become a heavy burden on our democracy. For some years the two main streams of political thought have maintained a state of near parity, making each of them when in power dependent on small, politically "flexible" groups. The will of the people is thus distorted and the very fabric of our institutions weakened. This development was demonstrated in all its crudity in the outgoing Knesset.

Last Monday's post-election night must have brought home to the pub-

lic, glued as they were in agonized bewilderment to their television screens, that this was an intolerable situation; it should surely have forced on the major parties the urgency of electoral reform.

Ironically, both major parties have long had plans in their files for such reform. They have always bowed to the ultimate demand of the smaller parties - and shelved them. It is the failure of the big parties to cooperate on a crucial issue on which they are agreed that has allowed the democratic process in Israel to reach its present degree of absurdity - and indeed danger.

There are of course various proposals for reform. The simplest is the raising of the threshold of admissibility to the Knesset from one per cent to three or five. Another is the adoption of some variant of the constituency system. Mr. Gad Ya'acobi of the Labour Party has proposed a plan whereby three-quarters of the Knesset would be elected in constituencies and one-quarter from a national list.

THE DEVELOPMENT of techniques presents no serious problem. The main lesson of the 1984 elections is that the political leaders of the nation should find the courage and the humility to act in concert for the elimination of at least the burning woes of our society - even if this requires the shelving of immediate party interests.

DR. YOSEF BURG and Mr. Zevulun Hammer, the leaders of the National Religious Party, hold the fate of Israel in their hands. It is as simple as that.

They can decide whether this divided nation is to be ruled for four more years by the Likud, assisted by the Tehiya and Kach, or by a new government, led by the Alignment which, for all its faults, still embodies the virtues and values of sane social-democracy.

Dr. Burg and Mr. Hammer look and sound like sane, liberal-minded men. The veteran interior minister, if I am not mistaken, was one of the two ministers to dissent on the

night of June 5, 1982, from the cabinet's decision to plunge the IDF deep into Lebanon.

Following the first weeks of that war, the education minister, in the 1970s one of the patron figures of Gush Emunim (does he really take pride in this today?), spoke out against the fanaticism which puts tracts of land above the value of life.

Now the two must decide whether the NRP is to join a narrow coalition led by the Likud, to hold out, come hell or high water, for a national unity government, or to plump for a narrow coalition led by the Alignment.

TO GO ON with the Likud has the

The fateful choice

By BENNY MORRIS

merits of inertia; one need do nothing and rethink nothing. And it has the greater merit, perhaps, of representing, with relative accuracy, the will of the NRP's voters.

The NRP rank and file probably prefer that the party continue in coalition with the Likud.

To opt - against the past seven years' mold and return to the historical partnership with Labour requires courage and firm leadership; it requires Burg and Hammer to exercise real leadership and to lead their reluctant flock into accepting such a switch.

Neither Burg nor Hammer, I think, need telling what is best for the nation. Both certainly recognize the disaster of 400 per cent inflation, a \$25 billion foreign debt and a tragic and wasteful war in Lebanon for what they are - blunders committed by foolish and incompetent men. Who knows the quality and nature of these men better than Dr. Burg and Mr. Hammer, their cabinet colleagues these past years?

A change of policies, but even more, a change of leaders, is what the country - if not its foolish electorate - sorely needs at this hour. Dr. Burg and Mr. Hammer, I think, know this; know that a team com-

posed of Peres, Navon, Rabin, Bar-Lev and Gur is vastly superior to one led by Shamir, Sharon, David Levy, Cohen-Orad, Sharir, Shostak and the shade of Menachem Begin (who had the honesty to resign but not the will to perform a public mea culpa).

MORE DEEPLY, both Dr. Burg and Mr. Hammer may still support the untrammelled right of Jewish settlement in the Arab-populated heartland of the Land of Israel. But they surely recognize that the continued impasse in talks with the Palestinians, Jordan and Egypt can only lead to further conflict and tragedy in our area.

Who better than Dr. Burg and Mr. Hammer knows that there can be no meaningful dialogue between Yuval Ne'eman and Meir Kahane and King Hussein and President Mubarak. And what a potential for war another four years of Likud-Tehiya-Kach government - in which Sharon and Rafal will shine - hold?

Dr. Burg and Mr. Hammer must now choose. If they go with the Likud, before or after exhausting the possibilities of forming a national unity government, then the other religious partners of the previous two coalitions will follow suit - and the nation will get, perhaps what it deserves, another four years of in-

competence, wastefulness and, possibly, blood.

But if they break away and reach out for a new coalition with the Alignment, probably drawing in their wake one or more of their religious partners (Shas, Tami?), then Shimon Peres will form the next government of Israel (with or without the Likud, whose presence in such a coalition will, as like as not, paralyse decision-making and render it short-lived).

To do this, Dr. Burg and Mr. Hammer will have to do battle with the annexationists among their constituents and convince their electors

that this is best for Israel, in the long run.

THE WILL to break away from the clutch of the annexationist-inflationists of the Likud and Tehiya is probably there. Dr. Burg and Mr. Hammer must step away from the welter of coalition-making scrums and machinations for a moment to look at what the good of the nation requires; then they must choose.

Perhaps an element in their thinking should be, in addition to the general public good, that four more years of empty settlement adventures in the West Bank and Arab-bashing or expulsion by Meir

Kahane's boys will only produce further desertions from NRP ranks and increase the power of the Tehiya and Kach - who will set the government tone and emerge as successes - come the next elections.

Due to the eccentricities of the Israeli electoral system and voter, only Dr. Burg and Mr. Hammer can stop the slide to the right which this nation has been painfully experiencing since 1977. Let us hope they have the courage of their convictions and allow their consciences and wisdom, rather than convenience, to prevail.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

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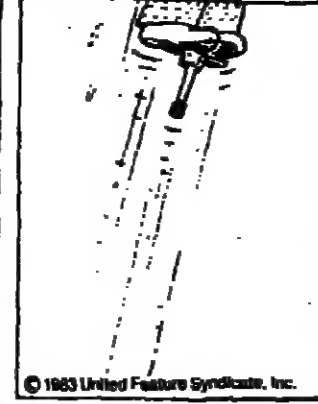
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in cooperation with MA'ARIV HA'ARETZ HA'ARETZ
All classified advertisements for Friday must appear in this section
by 5 p.m. Thursday preceding publication appear in this section.

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Daihatsu Charade, 1984, air conditioner, 5 gears, guaranteed, 11,500, 052-55298.
Land Rover station wagon and caravan, equipped, 1984, expedition, 4x4, 6x6, 10x10, 12x12, 16x16, 20x20, 24x24, 28x28, 32x32, 36x36, 40x40, 44x44, 48x48, 52x52, 56x56, 60x60, 64x64, 68x68, 72x72, 76x76, 80x80, 84x84, 88x88, 92x92, 96x96, 100x100, 104x104, 108x108, 112x112, 116x116, 120x120, 124x124, 128x128, 132x132, 136x136, 140x140, 144x144, 148x148, 152x152, 156x156, 160x160, 164x164, 168x168, 172x172, 176x176, 180x180, 184x184, 188x188, 192x192, 196x196, 200x200, 204x204, 208x208, 212x212, 216x216, 220x220, 224x224, 228x228, 232x232, 236x236, 240x240, 244x244, 248x248, 252x252, 256x256, 260x260, 264x264, 268x268, 272x272, 276x276, 280x280, 284x284, 288x288, 292x292, 296x296, 300x300, 304x304, 308x308, 312x312, 316x316, 320x320, 324x324, 328x328, 332x332, 336x336, 340x340, 344x344, 348x348, 352x352, 356x356, 360x360, 364x364, 368x368, 372x372, 376x376, 380x380, 384x384, 388x388, 392x392, 396x396, 400x400, 404x404, 408x408, 412x412, 416x416, 420x420, 424x424, 428x428, 432x432, 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Yosef Mendeleovich... 'The activists themselves want Israel to take a tough line.'

(Karen Ben-Zion)

Promoting awareness

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN / Jerusalem Post Reporter

"WHERE'S THE government's reaction to the shameful treatment of Ephraim Katzir in Leningrad?" asks Yosef Mendeleovich.

In an interview at his flat in the Kiryat Moshe quarter of Jerusalem, the former Prisoner of Zion disapproved with Katzir's decision not to file a formal complaint for fear it would harm the aliyah activists.

"The activists themselves want Israel to take a tough line," says Mendeleovich, who came to Israel in February 1981, the last of the Jewish defendants in the 1970 Leningrad hijack trial to be released by the Soviet authorities.

He says the news media should have made more of a fuss about the Katzir incident and that the government should have issued a strong protest and appeal to other governments for support. "Failure to do this does not serve the cause of Soviet Jewry."

The interrogation of the Katzirs undoubtedly portends a more brutal line towards Soviet activists and Jewish tourists who attempt to make contact with them, Mendeleovich says.

He cites the sentencing, just one day before the Katzir incident, of Riga activist Zachar Sonnenschein to three years in jail. His crime: protesting the authorities' refusal to grant him the exit permit he had requested four years ago. He had "defamed the Soviet state." Five years ago such a sentence would have been unthinkable.

The tougher line against aliyah activists and teachers of Jewish culture, launched under Yuri Andropov a year and a half ago with the arrest of Yosef Begun, has been further hardened in recent months, Mendeleovich notes.

For example, the article in the criminal code proscribing anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda has been reinforced by severely increasing the punishment for anyone deemed to have violated its terms who has also received material assistance from "persons acting in the interests of foreign organizations." This provision can easily be invoked against any aliyah activist who accepts a gift from a tourist.

Another indication of the changed situation, says Mendeleovich, is the recent cancellation by Soviet authorities of the licences of Western shipping companies that ship parcels to the Soviet Union, prepaying the Soviet customs duties in hard currency. Even Stalin never resorted to such a measure.

That the Russians are ready to forgo the tens of millions of dollars provided by this source proves how determined they are to cut off their citizens from the outside world.

THE SEVERAL million members of the Baha'i religion, organized in 26,000 local communities in 143 countries throughout the world, recently marked the martyrdom of the Bab (Gate), the Persian herald of their religion.

They gathered for commemorative services, prayers and a reading of accounts of the public execution by firing squad, in Tabriz, Iran, on July 9, 1850, of Mirza Ali Mohammad - "The Gate" - who six years earlier had declared himself the herald of a new religion advocating the brotherhood of man.

The Bab's body was eventually brought to this country and he is buried on the slopes of Mt. Carmel in Haifa, where the gold domed Baha'i shrine is his tomb.

The Baha'is also mourned and prayed for 300,000 co-religionists in Iran, who continue to suffer severe persecution from the Khomeini regime.

Donald Barrett of the Baha'i World Centre in Haifa gave *The Jerusalem Post* the latest information on their sufferings which vividly recall the persecution of the Jews by the Nazis, half a century ago.

Some 170, most of them prominent members of the Baha'i community in Iran have been killed, mainly by firing squads or hanging, and another 15 have disappeared.

Properties of several hundred urban families have been seized and in rural areas orchards were destroyed, farms and arable land confiscated, petitions for redress were

IT WAS ONLY by chance that the interview took place a few days after the Katzir incident. My purpose was to learn more about the Soviet Jewry Education and Information Centre, a Jerusalem-based organization headed by Mendeleovich, with Prof. Martin Gilbert as honorary president.

Founded last September, the centre's primary function is to promote public awareness of Soviet Jewry issues and eventual involvement in them. Last month, it co-sponsored, with the American Jewish Congress, the Soviet Jewry evening at the Van Leer Foundation in Jerusalem at which *New York Times* correspondent David Shipler and peace activist Abie Nathan were the main speakers.

And last Sunday, the centre held a demonstration at Kikar Menorah in Jerusalem to mark the 10th wedding anniversary of Avital and Anatoly Shecharansky.

But the day-to-day function of the organization is to serve as a resource centre providing audio-visual and textual materials for use by educational institutions, community organizations and centres, youth groups and the mass media.

The centre has prepared a mobile exhibit with audio-visual material reflecting the history and current situation of Soviet Jewry. One presentation is about the Prisoners of Zion; another describes the first Jewish kindergarten in the Soviet Union, which functioned from 1976 to 1981. The organizer of the kindergarten, Shmuel Azarkh, was present during most of the interview.

The uniqueness of the centre lies not only in its special emphasis on information materials, but also in the fact that it was organized by Russian olim. For the first time, Mendeleovich says, people will hear the voice of an organization led by former aliyah activists.

"We want the Israeli government to involve itself more in the subject of Soviet Jewry," he says. "In the international arena it takes no political action. Our UN representative doesn't raise the question there. Everything is left to the American Jewish organizations."

He has contempt for the quiet diplomacy theory. We must not be afraid of angering the Russians, he insists. A firm, proud stand by the Israeli government can only help the struggle of Soviet Jewry.

IT WAS pusillanimous, both of the government and the Jewish organizations, to yield quietly last year to French president Francois Mitterrand's objection to holding the third world conference on Soviet Jewry in

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

ignored by the Iranian authorities.

The government has formally instructed industrial and commercial institutions not to pay their Baha'i employees. More than 100,000 employed by government or private enterprises were summarily dismissed and their pension and other benefits revoked. Baha'i students have been dismissed from all universities and in many places Baha'i children have been denied entry to schools.

Currently 751 Baha'is, men, women and children are being held in various prisons, many of them under torture to recant their faith or confess to false charges, including "spying for Israel."

The Baha'is are unsafe in their own homes, which are entered at will by revolutionary guards, who ransack and loot, and if they do not find the person they have come to arrest seize hostages, even children.

Whenever an important member of a Baha'i family is killed, or only imprisoned, the family are forced from their homes without any belongings, even in the dead of winter. They have no recourse to justice.

Through a world-wide public in-

France, as originally scheduled, Mendeleovich says.

He maintains that because the venue was changed to Jerusalem, the conference was virtually ignored by the international news media and proved a wasted effort.

On the drop-out problem, Mendeleovich notes that the Soviets themselves have not even given that as the reason for their curtailing Jewish emigration. So why should we assume that that is the explanation?

"I strongly deplore the dropping out - it's a calamity - but it is our duty to help every Jew we can to get out of the Soviet Union, regardless of his destination," he says. "It is inhumane for the Jewish Agency to deny help to those not headed for Israel."

Here Azarkh interjects: "If Israel can return close to 300 Arabs for six Jewish prisoners, it should be able to live with 1,000 Soviet drop-outs for every 100 olim."

Mendeleovich says that "we in Israel" are largely responsible for the *neshivra*. "The Jews in Russia have gotten the message that Israel doesn't want them."

The media have created such a negative image of Soviet Jews as to engender hatred for them among many Israelis, says Mendeleovich, citing a TV programme on the Vienna reception centre screened about six months ago.

THEN HE DROPS a bombshell. He produces a photocopy of an article that appeared in last week's issue of *Nes*, the Jerusalem Russian-language weekly.

The article, by Dr. Mikhail Agursky of the Soviet and East European Research Centre at the Hebrew University, a frequent contributor to *The Jerusalem Post*, charges that in the early 70s, when the Alignment was in power, there were people in key positions who worked against Soviet aliyah "from political considerations."

Agursky confirmed this to me, although he defined himself as an Alignment supporter. The political considerations were the approaching Knesset elections of 1973, in which it was feared that most of the Russian olim would vote for parties of the right.

In fact, Agursky says, it was in response to the request of the Israeli government that the U.S. at the time granted refugee status to Soviet Jewish emigrants who held Israeli visas.

But, Agursky adds, the Likud, from political considerations of its own, has been just as uninterested in Russian aliyah. Here, he says, the rationale has been to cater to the anti-Russian-olim prejudice of the Likud's Sephardi constituency.

President Reagan has made a public statement condemning the cruel acts of religious fanaticism against the Baha'is of Iran, as have other leaders. Over a dozen parliaments, including the Parliament of Europe, have passed resolutions on the issue, the latest being a joint resolution of both U.S. houses of congress on June 19, which condemned the persecution and called for the safeguarding of human rights for all minorities. The UN Human Rights Commission, Amnesty International and many other human rights groups have also condemned the persecutions and called for the restoration of the Baha'is rights.

So far the Khomeini regime has ignored all appeals. They have gone so far as to refuse entry to a special representative, appointed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on May 24, for a "thorough study of the human rights situation in the Islamic republic of Iran."

The fate of the Baha'is is also receiving much publicity in the international press. But to date, the Khomeini regime has defied the world and is continuing its fanatical persecution of the Baha'is - whom it considers "heretics" - without any apparent let up.

SOLDIERS' VOTES

(Continued from Page One)

David Levy also conferred with Weizman.

At the Knesset, where the count of votes was over unofficially, it transpired that 112 seats were distributed in the first round and the remaining eight in the complicated calculations for translating surplus votes into seats.

The soldiers' votes showed that support for the Alignment in the Israel Defence Forces fell off very marginally since the previous elections in 1981, while support for the Likud fell some 10 per cent. However, support in the IDF for Tehiya went up so sharply that Likud spokesmen were able to boast that "the national camp" had swept the board. The Likud and Tehiya, between them won some 50 per cent of the soldiers' votes and the Alignment plus Shinui and CRM won some 35 per cent.

After it transpired that Kach won 2.5 per cent of the soldiers' votes, the chief Alignment representative on the Central Elections Committee, Yehuda Hashai, told reporters: "This is the fruit of the educational process conducted by a nationalist regime over seven years, in which the rule of law was imperilled in this country. We can anticipate a number of developments now, which will undermine Israel's democratic foundations."

Former president Yitzhak Navon, Labour MK Uzi Baram and Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kolek met yesterday with former Sephardi chief rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the spiritual mentor of Shas, the Sephardi Torah Observers, and Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, head of the party's Knesset list. The meeting, which was at the initiative of the Alignment, did not deal with "substantive matters," according to Peretz's aide, Menashe Vardi. Vardi said there was a general discussion of what Shas would demand and what the Alignment would be prepared to pay.

Vardi defined the Alignment proposals as "general promises." But one source said they promised Shas the religious-affairs portfolio and a strict adherence to the status quo on all religious matters.

Baram told *The Jerusalem Post* that Yosef, whom he described as "the dominant figure" in Shas, had reacted positively to the Labour initiative. The conversation, he said, had concentrated on principles and the matter of portfolios had not been discussed.

Sources close to the delegation said afterwards that Peretz did not take a very active part in the discussion. They described the Shas leader and his colleagues on the Knesset list as "inexperienced."

Among the problems apparently discussed yesterday was the long-standing "Who is a Jew" legislation, with Peretz demanding a promise and timetable for its implementation. A Labour source said, "The two sides agreed to meet again on Sunday."

According to *Kol Yisrael's* evening news item, three Likud leaders,

David Levy, Ariel Sharon and Miriam Tsa'asa-Glazer, separately approached Yosef yesterday. Tsa'asa-Glazer told a reporter after her meeting with Yosef that, "everything is still open."

Labour officials were also in contact with Ometz leader Yigael Hurvitz yesterday. Hurvitz said later that, "everything is up in the air," and that the distribution of portfolios had not been discussed. Telephone contacts were also held with Tami leader MK Aharon Abuhartzeira, who has formed a "functional partnership" with Weizman.

The pace of the coalition negotiations is expected to speed up at the beginning of next week, now that the final, though unofficial, election results are known.

An agreement in principle was said to have been reached yesterday between Morasha and Shas, about the formation of a bloc for the coalition negotiations. Talks about the formation of the bloc will now begin, a Morasha spokesman told *The Post* last night.

Morasha has come out unequivocally for a Likud-led coalition.

The agreement in principle was reached at a meeting yesterday of Shas and Morasha teams, headed by Rabbi Yosef and Rabbi Haim Druckman, respectively. They agreed that if the other religious parties - the National Religious Party and Agudat Yisrael - wish to join the bloc, they would be welcome. However, the bloc's existence would not depend on the other religious parties.

It should be noted that the agreement reached is only in principle, and that details must still be worked out between the parties. Yosef, for example, told the Morasha representatives that there is no undertaking by his party in favour of either the Likud or Alignment. Morasha, however, believes that if the Likud can achieve a minimal Knesset majority, Shas would opt for the Likud.

Morasha sources said yesterday that they have an undertaking from Prime Minister Shamir to amend the Law of Return, Shamir, according to Morasha, has gone further than former premier Menachem Begin, but this could not be confirmed by Likud sources last night.

TAX STYMIES

(Continued from Page One)

Post it was impossible to track down all those who had already paid and received vouchers for hotels and car rentals, and were due to fly today and in the next few days.

Banks, flooded yesterday by clients confused by the regulation, were themselves sometimes at a loss to calculate the tax. One would-be passenger got three different figures for the tax from three banks: one wanted to calculate the tax at the representative exchange rate; another at the buyers exchange rate for transfers plus one per cent and a third at the exchange rate that existed several months ago, when the client had bought his dollars.

Problems are also likely to arise later. A Lufthansa source noted that the new regulation goes counter to an agreement with the German Federal Republic to prevent double taxation. The price for car rentals in Germany includes a 14 per cent tax. The requirement to pay value added tax here, too, contravenes the agreement on double taxation.

Even if the VAT is collected, it is not clear whether the Israeli must pay the tax here on the base price of the rented car only, or on the price including the German tax.

In the Knesset Finance Committee both Likud and Alignment members were reportedly critical of the new regulation.

Knesset member Ariel Amoraï said that in some instances travellers

would have to pay the VAT twice - once on the foreign currency they buy here and then again on the goods they buy with it.

Amoraï also said that travellers who paid abroad with credit cards, long before the new regulation was announced, would be debited only after their invoices arrive here, which means they will be taxed retroactively. This is unfair, he said, because some travellers would not have bought the goods had they known they would cost 15 per cent more.

Several sources said that companies and big travel agencies will be able to circumvent the law. An agency that has branches abroad can instruct its branches to make all payments abroad rather than send the money to Israel and pay from here.

Business people travelling abroad may also find ways of deducting the new tax from their taxable income.

Many Israelis yesterday turned up at Ben-Gurion Airport with suitcases and backpacks hoping to check in for today's flights and pass through passport control before midnight, when the new tax went into effect.

But the airlines refused to check in passengers that far in advance. Even passengers on El Al's 1 a.m. flight to New York were required to pay the tax - even if they had completed the departure formalities before midnight.

ECONOMY WORSE

(Continued from Page One)

Europe and the Middle East.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, responding to questions posed by Democratic Congressman Stephen Solarz of New York, said he did not want to "over-dramatize" the situation, but he went on to note that the economic facts are bad.

He cited the increase in the inflation rate from 200 to 400 per cent, and quoted Israeli economists as predicting that it might even reach 1,000 per cent unless emergency action is quickly taken.

Murphy said there has been a dramatic reduction in foreign invest-

ment in Israel and that Israel balance of payments deficits are increasing. "Everything is getting worse," he said.

Murphy suggested that several serious differences between the U.S. and Israel on the proposed free-trade area continue and that despite the strong support of both governments for the concept, an early resolution is unlikely. The substance and tone of his remarks on this matter were in marked contrast to the optimistic assessment voiced in recent days by Industry and Trade Minister Gideon Patti.

Murphy made constant reference to the State Department doctrine that a stalemate in the peace process creates opportunities for the Soviet Union to gain influence in the Middle East.

That was why, U.S. officials said yesterday, Murphy strongly repeated support for President Reagan's September 1982 Arab-Israeli peace plan during his remarks and why he insisted that a revived U.S.-led diplomatic initiative is imperative as soon as possible.

But realistically, the Americans said, no serious new initiative is possible before the U.S. elections in November and before a strong Israeli government comes to power. In the interim, Washington will be trying to avoid further setbacks to its interests in the region, while taking a relatively low profile.

INTEREST

(Continued from Page One)

are extremely expensive to the banks.

At the Leumi and Discount Banks the new rates are due to take effect on August 1, while Mizrahi and Hapoalim are putting up their rates this Sunday.

Accounts of salary earners receive slightly better terms at some banks. Hapoalim is traditionally the most accommodating in this respect, and the first IS20,000 in these accounts will be charged 17 per cent, compared to 18 per cent at Leumi and Mizrahi.

On the other side of the ledger, Leumi announced 2.3 per cent hikes in rates paid to depositors at the

beginning of this week. Hapoalim increased its rates on *pakam* short-term deposits, by 3-4 per cent, even on very small deposits, from last Wednesday, while Discount and Mizrahi raised their rates by 2-3 per cent, also to take effect immediately.

The large banks will probably begin to pay interest on current accounts from the beginning of August. Mizrahi, which has been paying interest on current accounts subject to certain conditions since March, raised its rate to 10 per cent. The First International Bank, which has been paying interest on all current accounts since June, has also announced an increase to 10 per cent.

THE JERUSALEM POST

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מזכרת לאחל

AN IMPORTANT part of the country's history can be seen in the low-rise neighbourhood curving casually around the landscape of southern Jerusalem as if flung wide by a farmer in some distant planting season. This week's elections were a reminder that an important part of the country's future lies there too.

The Katamonim were conceived in the early 1950s in strategic terms—an arc of neighbourhoods constructed along the city border in order to close it off to Arab infiltrators crossing from the direction of Beit Safafa. Were it not for the Katamonim, there would have been little but open space between the border and the planned government centre two kilometres to the north.

New immigrants from Arab countries, many of them living in tents in the nearby Talpiti transit camp, were settled in the simple, two-storey houses which were coated with plaster rather than Jerusalem stone. The neighbourhood was at once a trip-wire against marauders, like the border kibbutzim, and a seedbed for the growing of a new Israeli from the poorest of the Diaspora.

In time, the strategic aspect receded from view as the overall security situation improved; but the social aspect became critical. Instead of a seedbed, the neighbourhood became a desert where the old generation could be left to die. The tools for developing a new generation proved inadequate and Katamon became Israeli shorthand for slum and the discontented urban Sephardi poor.

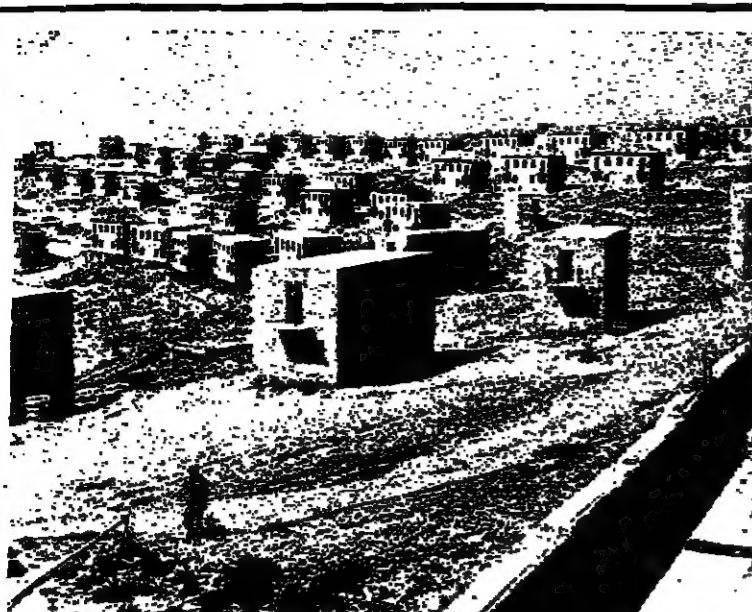
After the Six Day War, Katamon joined Musrara in shouting its discontent into the face of the Ashkenazi establishment by marching through the streets as Black Panthers. In 1977, Jerusalem's Katamon and all the other Katamonim in the country found a more effective way of voicing grievance by turning out the Labour Party and crowning Menachem Begin, who had sojournd on the political margins with them, king of Israel.

This week, Katamon spoke again. There was less anger this time, and somewhat less support for Likud; but for Labour politicians wishing to regain national leadership it will be imperative to decipher the psychological-ideological impulse that directed Katamon's hand on election day.

ELI BEZALEL is not the kind of man whose car you will want to have boxed in near the YMCA stadium after Betar has lost a soccer match. The burly 36-year-old sits outside his kiosk on Ben-Yosef Street in a tight, red T-shirt, surveying the

Voices from the Katamonim

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH/Jerusalem Post Reporter



Houses in Katamon being built in the early 1950s; at right, a view of Katamon today.



(Rubinger, Enka)

world about him as if he's expecting trouble.

"I'm neutral," he says when a stranger asks him about politics and turns to go inside.

"Did you vote?"

"Yes."

"Then you're not neutral. Who did you vote for?"

"Likud."

"Why?"

"I voted for Likud because I knew it would be good with them. When Labour was in power there was a recession, and I was fired from my construction job. If they got back into power they'd do what they want, right? It's frightening to think about. With Likud, they may destroy here, but they'll build there. Prices may go up but so do wages. Look at what everybody has now—colour television, video. Come on inside. You'll write my name, won't you? Put in my address too."

Eli had come from Iraq as an infant and married a girl from Moscow eight years ago. She had voted for Kahané. "She's religious and she hates the Arabs, the *goyim*."

They lived with their two children in Neve Ya'acov in East Jerusalem.

"Peres says he wants to give it back to Hussein. He won't, of course, but that's what he wants."

IN A NEATLY-arranged grocery less than 50 metres down the street,

David Matzlani, 24, says he does not think it was the Sephardi-Ashkenazi context that determined Katamon's vote. He himself had voted Labour.

"People here voted Likud because they've got it good. When Labour was in power they didn't. What they don't know is that what they have we're all going to have to pay for. The standard of living has gone up in proportion to what the individual has contributed to the economy. Aridor reduced taxes and opened the gates."

David, whose parents also immigrated from Iraq, had finished vocational school and was thinking of becoming a tour guide. The store was his father's.

"I have reservations about Labour's position on Judea and Samaria. I don't think we have to return it. But Likud has to go because of the economy and Lebanon. It's been one mistake after another."

What about Kahané?

"I don't know who voted for him. I don't think people here did. This is the way Hitler began. He propagated his racist ideas and people began to accept them. We're not lacking people in Israel who hate Arabs. But this is what Hitler did to us in the Holocaust. We're not here to destroy a people, but to live in peace with them."

What did he think about the Arabs?

"We have to come to an agreement with them. I think that whether we like it or not, a Palestinian state will rise just as ours did. The only question is where."

ON A SIDE street near Beit-Safafa, Shimon Dueb is siphoning gas into his stalled car in front of the house in which he was born 23 years ago and in which he still lives.

"You should have seen this neighbourhood when we were kids. Just poverty. If a car drove in, it was an event. Look at it now. You even see lots of '82 models parked on the streets."

He had voted Likud, but would prefer to see a national unity government headed by Likud than just a Likud government.

"I agree 60 per cent with Kahané," says Dueb, a clerk on a construction site. "The Arabs are a danger. But I'm against driving them out. They live here like we do and we have good relations with the Arabs in Beit Safafa."

Is the body politic simply dividing into Sephardi-Likud, Ashkenazi-Labour?

"That's the way it looks," says Dueb.

"Is that good?"

"Sure it's not good. This is a country that soldiers died for."

MORDECHAI RAFAEL, a young

carpenter, sits on a stone fence in the shade of a tree with the *hebra*. All are sportily dressed and look as if they've recently stepped out of a shower after a day's work.

"There's work for anyone who wants it," says Mordechai. He too, prefers a national unity government under Likud to a straight Likud coalition.

What about Kahané? Their expressions seem to waver between bemusement and distaste. "His style is Hitler's," says Mordechai. "He's too racist. The Arabs are human

beings like us. Arabs from the territories come here and undercut our prices, but I have nothing against Israeli Arabs."

IT IS DIFFICULT to say what these conversations and others like them, add up to; but one senses that they contain many of the basic elements from which the political world-view of Israel's Katamonim will be shaped. Insofar as ideology is expressed, it is soft-edged. An earthy commonsense and decency is widespread, but there is also an element

of confusion and of malleability that may be exploited by the forces of darkness if not pre-empted by the forces of light.

There is a growing self-confidence and sense of national belongingness—a development for which Likud can take credit—but the economic well-being on which much of this feeling is based may prove a fragile support. If it gives way, the results could prove explosive. There is a sense of a cultural-social difference from westernized Israeli society as yet unbridged—but far from unbridgeable.

The name Katamon still symbolizes the city slum for many, but it is in fact one of the pleasantest areas of Jerusalem to walk through.

Plantings over the past three decades have turned this one-time urban desert into a green and tranquil place. Front yards are adorned with fruit trees and grape arbours. New and often luxurious additions have been built onto the original Housing Ministry blocks by the residents themselves while the low-rise character of the housing and internal pedestrian walkways have preserved a human scale rare in a city. Empty lots that once were garbage dumps have been turned into attractive parks by the municipality.

Above all, there is a greater sense of neighbourhood in Katamon than anywhere else in Jerusalem. On election day, residents could be seen bantering with each other between balconies and frontyards on almost every street. A grocer emerged from his shop to ask a girl on a balcony across the way how much milk her mother had ordered. Children played in the quiet streets and old women picked herbs from their gardens.

What Labour had planted, Likud has reaped. Israel's political direction will depend in good part on the harvests of the future in Katamon.

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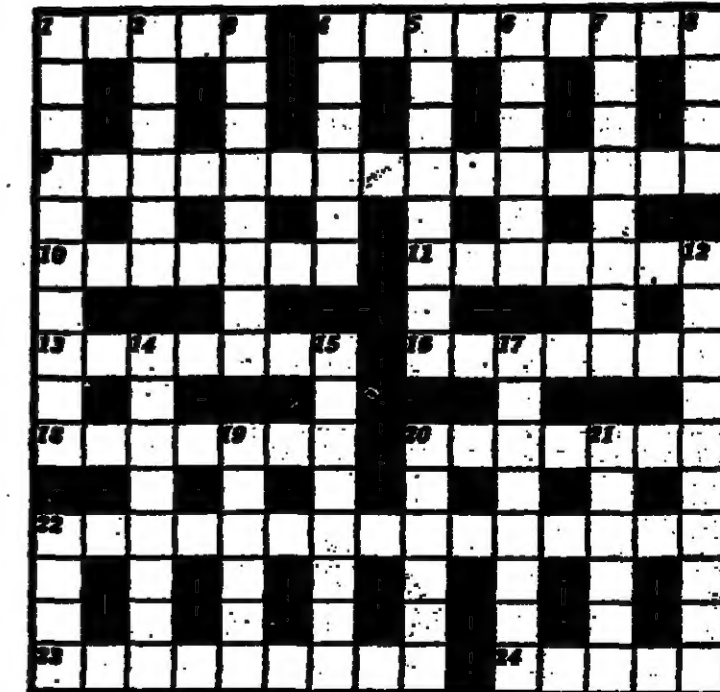
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TWO-IN-ONE CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Commonly gets smashing work from the sculptor (5)
 - Helping oneself to get it in this restaurant (9)
 - Gas-can opener dog ruined—it's fair game! (5-5, 4)
 - Crack team of geologists may explore it (7)
 - Going over a ship making an inventory (7)
 - Wild animals—people like them! (7)
 - I enter a form with intention of learning (7)
 - Straightforward increase removing a problem (7)
 - Rank up the enemy's fire? I'll do no good! (7)
 - Likely to kindle a response? (7)
 - The break of day. The morning, that is! (9)
 - Not good at learning to take a corner! (5)

- DOWN**
- Judges quickly dealing with them for talking papers, etc. (5-5)
 - Han't accepted any proposals to be one! (6)
 - Taking the cover off animal meat, it appears (6)
 - Pure she-cat? Nonsense! (6)
 - Something that is done with arc-light? Certainly sounds appropriate (8)
 - Hide some bits that are long and thin (6)
 - Turned earl into member of the family (8)
 - Where one finishes attaching the wheels (4)
 - Clue ten: "rag in tatters," more fitting under clue seven, surely? (5-5)
 - Highly esteem one never wrong about tea (8)
 - Automatically shoot soldiers who want their discharge! (4-4)
 - By the police, taken away from the scene of the crime, perhaps (8)
 - It's all right for you, having something like this to eat! (6)
 - Could one say, goes on strike to get money? (6)
 - No more free lodging here! (6)
 - White person's skeleton—a part, anyway (4)



'Quickie'

- ACROSS**
- Marked on calendars (5)
 - Mad known (9)
 - Arrest (4, 4, 7)
 - Commanded (7)
 - Coming down in a plane (7)
 - Breathes out (7)
 - Does harm to (7)
 - They pose for artists (7)
 - Outburst of temper (7)
 - US govt. ministry (5, 10)
 - Makes up prescriptions (9)
 - Teams (5)

- DOWN**
- Warships (10)
 - Spoke (6)
 - Small animal (8)
 - Cleaned furniture, etc (6)
 - Chained up (8)
 - It teaches us something (8)
 - Using guns (8)
 - Refuse (4)
 - They hold vapour-fuel (10)
 - Traditionally, sell very fast (3, 5)

- 15** Thinks one possibly guilty (8)
17 Great, terrible beasts (8)
19 Come out (6)
20 Form of transport (6)
21 Staggered (6)
22 Small garden building (4)

Yesterday's Solution

FAR FROM WELL TUN
R L E O L A M A
S A B E S H I P
H M S T P L A
C O C I E L
A P P O I N T E A
R E G R A V Y E A
G O N G C I E N I D
O W S U I T S N E
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E R A N A N B S
S U F I A N T E D A
S A A N T O W M W H E E L S
E A R N E E N E N E
L E F R I E N D L Y A C T

Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1. Reserve, 4. Alley, 10. Spoke, 11. Canal, 12. Refuse, 13. Eider, 15. Need, 17. Ferry, 19. Elder, 20. Type, 23. Prelude, 27. Nod, 28. Reader, 29. Aft, 30. Vapour-fuel, 31. Local, 32. Remodel, 33. Ostrich, 34. Spoke, 35. Aft, 36. Spoke, 37. Spoke, 38. Spoke, 39. Spoke, 40. Spoke, 41. Spoke, 42. Spoke, 43. Spoke, 44. Spoke, 45. Spoke, 46. Spoke, 47. Spoke, 48. Spoke, 49. Spoke, 50. Spoke, 51. Spoke, 52. Spoke, 53. Spoke, 54. Spoke, 55. Spoke, 56. Spoke, 57. Spoke, 58. Spoke, 59. Spoke, 60. Spoke, 61. Spoke, 62. Spoke, 63. Spoke, 64. Spoke, 65. Spoke, 66. Spoke, 67. Spoke, 68. Spoke, 69. Spoke, 70. Spoke, 71. Spoke, 72. Spoke, 73. Spoke, 74. Spoke, 75. Spoke, 76. Spoke, 77. Spoke, 78. Spoke, 79. Spoke, 80. Spoke, 81. Spoke, 82. Spoke, 83. Spoke, 84. Spoke, 85. Spoke, 86. Spoke, 87. Spoke, 88. Spoke, 89. Spoke, 90. Spoke, 91. Spoke, 92. Spoke, 93. Spoke, 94. Spoke, 95. Spoke, 96. Spoke, 97. Spoke, 98. Spoke, 99. Spoke, 100. Spoke, 101. Spoke, 102. Spoke, 103. Spoke, 104. 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Deadlock deepens

YESTERDAY'S calculation of the soldiers' vote which added one more seat to Tehiya's four at the expense of the Labour Alignment, which went down from 45 to 44 Knesset seats, does not change the basic picture of a standoff between the two major political groupings in the new Knesset.

The nationalist bloc of Likud, Tehiya and Morasha can fashion a blocking coalition of 60 seats if it wins the support of the other religious parties and Yigal Hurwitz or Kach.

Such a conglomeration could prevent the Labour Alignment from forming even a narrow coalition. To form a narrow government the Likud would also need to win over Ezer Weizman's three-seat list, which is still far from certain, if it does not want to depend on Meir Kahane, and enjoy the support of Hurwitz.

The Labour Alignment now needs both Weizman and Tami together with the two Arab lists, to form a blocking majority to prevent a Likud government. It would need the additional support of at least the National Religious Party and Shas to form a narrow 61-seat coalition without the communists and the radical PLO.

Neither of these possibilities should be a cause for much optimism in regard to the ability of such narrow-based governments to tackle the urgent and painful tasks of economic retrenchment which have been awaiting the installation of a new government.

For all its drawbacks it would seem that in the present situation of a balanced political standoff the solution of a government of national unity, with the two major parties at its centre, is the best of an unpalatable lot.

The party and political obstacles in the way of such a government are daunting, indeed.

If this is the solution to be sought, it is clear that such a government must limit itself to the area of urgent economic policy, on which agreement is possible. The two major parties can be asked to agree to pull together for a specified term, after which they would again go to the voters, hopefully under changed electoral rules that would permit a more clear-cut decision.

The next step is for the President to begin his round of consultations with the representatives of the Knesset factions prior to his designation of the MK who will try to form a government.

In the past the President's task was in fact by way of an automatic confirmation of the clear decision of the electorate.

This time, due to the balanced standoff and the problems entailed in having the parties overcome their objections to serving together in a government of national unity, President Herzog will be confronted with real options which were never granted to any previous president.

Racism in the Knesset

THESE ELECTIONS have produced the most far-reaching stalemate ever between the major political blocs in Israel.

One of the results has been the creation of an even deeper division between the blocs which are vying for the one or two seats needed to enable them to set up a narrow majority coalition.

But within this aura of deepening polarization there would seem to be one area of consensus: a widespread sense of revulsion over the emergence of a one-man faction which unabashedly revels in representing Jewish racism: Meir Kahane's Kach.

Attempts to disqualify Kahane's list, as being innately anti-democratic, failed. Kahane's greatest success in these elections was in broadening his base from a few thousand to 22,000 supporters, or 1.3 per cent of the vote.

Kahane and his followers have already held their victory parade in brutal fashion through the Arab suk of the Old City of Jerusalem. He makes no bones about his determination to use his newly won station, which will grant him parliamentary immunity and a new dimension of publicity to disseminate his message of forcible expulsion of all of the Arabs from the territories and from Israel proper.

Kahane may or may not be a source of legitimate worry as a possible tip of an iceberg of such views in Israel. But he is undoubtedly a source of shame for Israel and for the Jewish people.

It is essential that the representatives of the 98.7 per cent of Israelis who did not vote for Kach translate their common opposition to this phenomenon into real terms that will deny his debasement of the Knesset.

Former prime minister Menachem Begin deserves commendation for stepping forward on Wednesday with criticism of Kahane and what he stands for.

Mr. Begin's initiative should be a signal for other leaders on all sides of the political spectrum to join in delegitimizing Kahane and making sure that the political pathology he represents does not spread further.

A period of transition

By ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

WE WILL have to get used to the fact that this is an interim period in Israeli politics. It is clear that any government in the near future will be a temporary, make-shift expedient. If we have managed to get accustomed to 400 per cent inflation, we can get used to almost anything.

The political cleavage in Israel, rather than the acknowledged faults of the electoral system, makes this a transition period. Neither major bloc commands a majority. If there were a 5 per cent threshold requirement, as in West Germany, presumably the religious camp would unite and make the creation of a stable majority dependent on its concurrence. Even a constituency system would reflect the basic cleavages.

The interim period will end when public opinion takes a clear direction. Until then, a coalition of either the Likud or the Alignment, resting as it would on a bare majority, would be inherently unstable. A Labour minority government, dependent on the sufferance of the predominantly Arab factions in the incoming Knesset, would be unlikely to enjoy an extended term of office.

A national unity government would be essentially an interim arrangement as well. It would represent a temporary suspension of the normal procedures of party competition. In order to deal with limited areas of consensus, particularly in the economic area, its instability would be inherent in its very creation.

These coalition options, in whatever direction, are interim arrangements in the political sense. There is an additional option that would be interim in nature both in the political and in the constitutional sense. That is the continuation in office of the present government for an extended period during the term of the new Knesset.

SUPPOSE NEITHER the Likud nor the Alignment succeeds in putting together a coalition that can achieve the confidence of a Knesset majority. Under section 10(a) of Fundamental Law: The Government, "The President may inform the Speaker that he does not see any possibility of achieving the setting up of a Government."

As Likhovski observes in his *Israeli Parliament: The Law of the Knesset*, the law says nothing of the fate of the Knesset in this instance.

"Nowhere is it provided that the Knesset is thereupon dissolved and new elections held. Apparently the Knesset was reluctant to face that eventuality."

What happens then? The law is crystal clear. According to section 25 of Fundamental Law: The Government, whenever a new Knesset has been elected or a Government has resigned, "the outgoing Government shall continue to carry out its duties until a new Government is established."

The existence of a parliamentary majority in favour of a dissolution of the Knesset would then become a cardinal question. It is unlikely that either of the major parties would relish another electoral contest in the immediate future.

This is the bottom-line option. Its very existence provides an alternative against which parties in the present coalition would weigh the advantages of joining a new coalition. Such an interim Government would have all the powers of a Government enjoying the confidence of a Knesset majority. It would be immune to motions of no-confidence or to threats of resignation, as the law closes the doors to leaving or entering an interim Government.

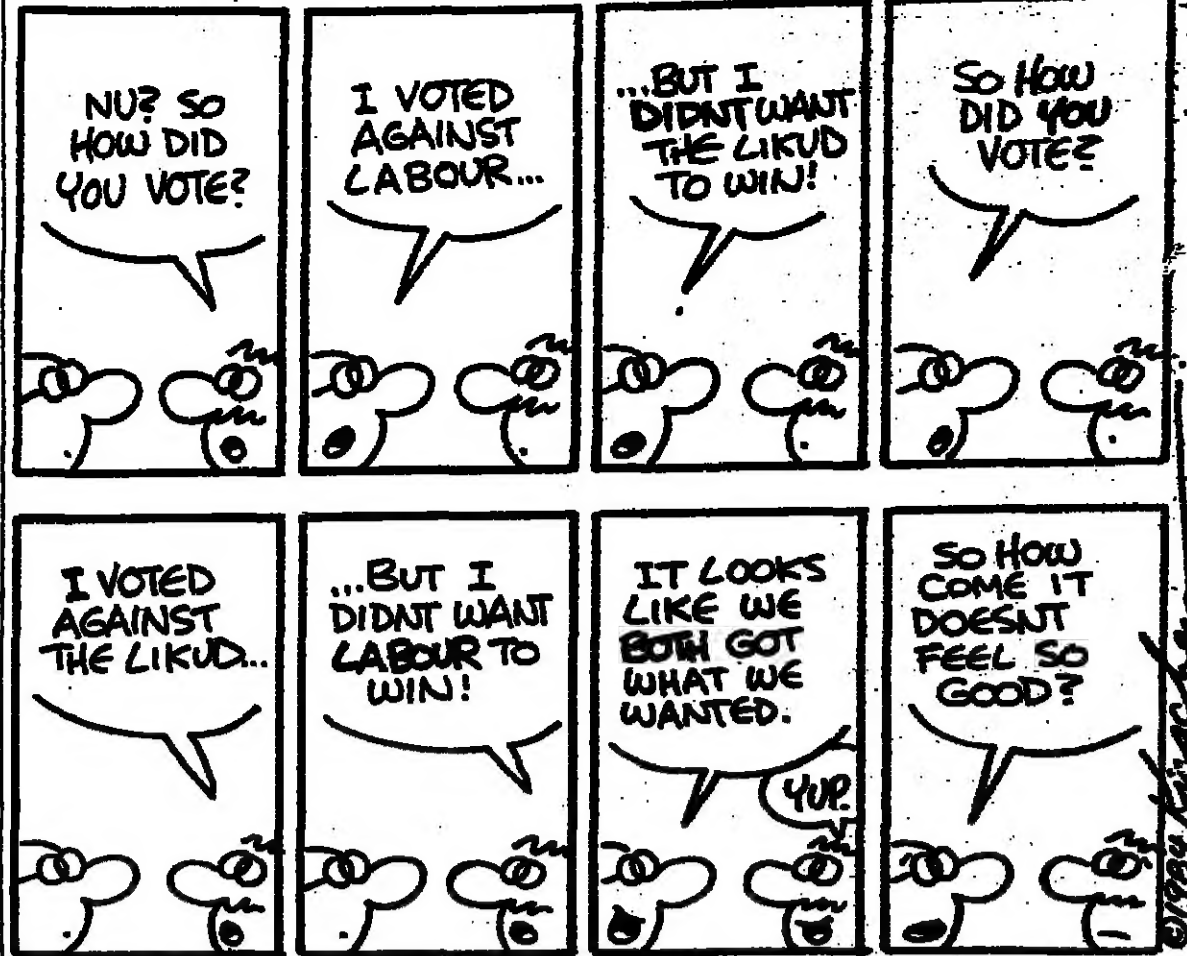
As Likhovski observes, "The law is clear - the Government which has resigned must carry on its functions without limitations until a new Government is established. Although it was unwholesome for the State that a resigning Government should continue to act, yet it was inconceivable for the State to remain with no Government at all."

The status of the Government after the election of a new Knesset is identical to that of a resigning Government.

GRANTED, such an interim Government would have difficulties in putting legislation through the Knesset. On the other hand, freed as it would be from the threat of a walk-out by a disgruntled coalition partner, it would be able to enlist opposition support for initiatives in which the two major parties might share a common interest, such as the modest electoral reform of raising the threshold requirement for elections to the Knesset.

Cooperation might extend to urgent action on the economic front, to the extent that a consensus could be found. Knesset approval of the

The Friday Dry Bones



budget would be likely to require some cooperative support.

As long as a Knesset majority was unprepared to opt for dissolution and new elections, such cooperation might prove the best path available. It would presumably not be forthcoming for budgetary appropriations that go to the heart of the present political cleavage, such as new settlements in Judea and Samaria beyond the boundaries of Labour's map for a territorial compromise, however.

The interim period will end when a majority of the new Knesset is prepared for new elections. How it will end depends in large measure on how Labour uses the time available. Indications are that the issue of party leadership is less crucial than the image of the party and the ideas that it presents to the voters.

The idea of a territorial compromise in its present form - unlike the opposition to settlement in areas thickly populated by Arabs - may be a casualty of the recent elections. To a major segment of the electorate, it does not appear realistic under present circumstances. It takes into account neither the realities of Jordanian intentions nor the facts that have been created on the ground over the years. The idea of leaving Jewish settlements under Jordanian sovereignty is probably

unacceptable both to the Jordanian rulers and to the Israeli electorate.

Instead, the emphasis should be on the principle of not ruling over an alien people, with a search for a Jordanian solution that would leave the issue of sovereignty open. Ideas such as shared sovereignty, a condominium, or a federalist arrangement deserve more attention than they have received to date.

Labour must present the electorate a political option that takes into account both its principles and present realities. The idea of a Jordanian solution must not be permitted to ossify into Labour's "covenant" - a declaration of devout desires, divorced from political facts of life.

ON THE SOCIAL FRONT, the image of Labour as the Establishment must be broken. The effective exploitation of the achievements of Project Renewal by the Likud in the recent campaign was remarkable.

The Likud had very little to do with the ideas that went into Project Renewal, such as the direct neighbourhood participation in the decision-making process and the bottom-up planning that was at the heart of the programme. This was the achievement of the late Yigal Yadin and his social planning advisor, Prof. Daniel Shitshoni, fired by

the Likud Government from his position as Government coordinator of the programme during the war in Lebanon.

In fact, the programme came under severe attack from Likud mayors, deprived of their share of the action by the democratic participation features of Project Renewal. Meir Shitrit attacked the programme venomously on TV, although he was reported to have offered to withdraw his criticism in return for acquiescence to his demands. This did not keep him from praising Project Renewal to the skies as though it was a Likud achievement during the recent campaign.

The lessons of Project Renewal should be applied by Labour within the Histadrut economic empire. A sense of participation, a feeling of counting, is often lacking at the popular level, both in Histadrut economic enterprises and in the Labour movement's social services.

At the heart of the ethnic issue, the heavy support of Sephardi Jews for the Likud, is the feeling of being left out.

If the cleavage in the culture continues, so will the political cleavage. Unless it is dealt with effectively, the present political interim may be a us for a long time to come.

The writer is a political scientist.

READERS' LETTERS

FALASHA DEMONSTRATION

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, - I was amazed that the Jewish Agency spokesmen claimed in your issue of July 1 that "No Ethiopian Jewish immigrant was arrested in connection with the demonstration (of Ethiopian Jews), nor were the demonstrators prevented from attending the rally..." Chaim Aharon has ordered the directors of all the absorption centres to allow those so desiring to participate in the demonstration.

I was one of the organizers of the Ethiopian Jewish demonstration of June 21. I and another immigrant from Ethiopia went with buses to the building in Netanya where Ethiopian immigrants live to take them to the demonstration. The front door of the building was open and we went in. We spoke with the immigrants, who agreed to come to the demonstration. I then left the building to arrange the loading of the buses.

When I returned, the front door of the building was closed, and the manager and the guard of the absorption centre were inside. The downstairs lobby was full of Ethiopian immigrants. I called to the guard and manager to open the door. They refused and said that it was forbidden to enter or leave the building, and that our demonstration was "against Israel." I tried to push the door open, but it was locked, and a glass pane broke. My arm was deeply cut and the guard was cut slightly. The manager announced that she was calling the police, and that no one could leave until they arrived.

When the police arrived, all the immigrants were freed to leave, and they went to the demonstration. My repeated requests for first aid were refused, although I was bleeding and in pain. I went to the police station with the guard and manager. In spite of my protests, I was kept there for three hours without first aid until I was released to go to Kupat Holim.

Bat Yam.

AMERICAN ELECTIONS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, - Registration to vote in the U.S. presidential elections will take place at the Hilton Hotel, Jerusalem, on July 31, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The U.S. Consulate will provide assistance in filling out forms and answering questions.

It is a duty and a privilege as American citizens living abroad to be able to participate in elections. Through our vote here, we are making our voice heard there.

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POSTSCRIPTS

PS AVANT-GARDE artists Linda Montano and Tehching Hsieh took the words "Independence Day" literally this year. They celebrated the U.S. national holiday by severing a 2.4-metre rope that had bound them together for 365 days and nights.

Since July 4, 1983, the pair had eaten, bicycled, shopped, slept and showered while tied together at the waist with the nylon rope. But they were not allowed to touch.

On this July 4, onlookers crowded into their loft as the artists stepped onto a makeshift stage and stood silently facing the audience.

Two witnesses ceremoniously confirmed that seals placed on the rope had not been tampered with before cutting the rope with knives.

Once freed, Montano and Hsieh smiled, kissed and hugged each other, and then accepted congratulations from cheering admirers.

Hsieh, 32, a native of Taiwan who speaks little English, smiled and raised his fist in a victory symbol.

The project is part of a relatively new medium known as performance art, in which artists try to create art with their lives.

In previous projects, Hsieh punched a time clock every hour, on the hour, for a year lived in a cage for a year and spent a year on the streets of New York.

Montano, 41, of New York, once was handcuffed to a fellow artist for three days and lived in a gallery for five days, adopting the personalities of five people.

In her next project, she said, she will attempt to "solve the problems raised by this piece."

Asked what kind of problems she encountered, she replied: "my ego."

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